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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Parties, 'Liberal Movements' Protest UN Sanctions

LD0804170093 Tripoli JANA in English 1635 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, al-Ayer [February] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Representatives of parties and liberal movements in the Arab world and friendly countries held an enlarged meeting in Damascus on Tuesday dedicated for solidarity with the Great Jamahiriyah in its confrontation of the unfair sanctions imposed through the false Resolution 748.

A delegation of Arab and friendly liberal movements today visited the Arab-Libyan relations bureau in Damascus and delivered to the secretary of the bureau the statement which they have issued at the end of their meetings.

The statement denounced the policy of double standards which is practiced under the cover of international legitimacy that imposes unfair resolutions on the nations that reject domination at the same time when the Zionist enemy refuses to implement any of the U.N. Security Council resolutions without facing any penalties.

The statement called on all Arab governments, popular organizations and associations in the Arab homeland and throughout the world to stand by the Great Jamahiriyah and support its just stances and demand the Security Council to lift the unfair sanctions.

The statement also praised the civilized style through which the Great Jamahiriyah handled this crisis.

Islamic Affairs

Foreign Liaison Secretary Meets ICO Chief

LD1204213293 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation conferred this evening with Dr. Hamed al-Ghabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], who is visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. The meeting was an opportunity to examine and discuss the agenda of the Islamic countries foreign ministers' conference due to take place in Karachi in the next few days, and the steps which ought to be taken by the ICO in the face of the mandatory sanctions brought about by the invalid UN Resolution 748 against the Great Jamahiriyah.

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation Leaves for Talks in Washington

Plans To Discuss Territories

TA1304174593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, led by Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, left for Amman today en route to the preliminary consultations in Washington. In the talks with the Americans, the Palestinian delegates will raise the closure in the territories, which they claim inflicts suffering on the population and cuts off East Jerusalem from the territories. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports:

[Begin recording] [Amir] The Palestinians are feverishly engaged in action on various fronts to ease Israel's pressure on the territories and to create a situation that will enable them to return to the negotiating table on 20 April.

Palestinian delegates Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, Dr. Hassan al-Khatib, and Dr. Nabil Qassis left this morning en route to Washington for preliminary consultations with U.S. Administration officials. In Cairo, Yasir 'Arafat and Faysal al-Husayni are currently conferring with President Mubarak in anticipation of the Rabin-Mubarak meeting tomorrow. In all these sessions, the Palestinians are demanding, among other things, that Israel lift the closure on the territories.

According to Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, the closure cuts off East Jerusalem from the territories and stirs ferment within the population.

[Abu-Zayyad] The closure affects normal life in the territories and in East Jerusalem. The problem is not whether or not to close the Green Line, but what happens with Jerusalem. The closure has placed Jerusalem at the top of every Palestinian's agenda. The fact that Palestinians in the West Bank are not permitted to get to East Jerusalem has become a weapon used against the delegation, the peace talks, and the entire process. People argue that delegation members look after their own interests, get permits, and are allowed to go to Jerusalem, while 120,000 people residing around Jerusalem are not allowed to get into the city.

[Amir] The Palestinian delegates once again find themselves caught between the Palestinian street and their wish to pursue the peace talks. As the date of the upcoming talks gets nearer, all sides are looking for a way out of this maze. [end recording]

Awaiting 'Two Key Statements'

JN1404073393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Apr 93 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—A Palestinian delegation headed by the chief negotiator to the bilateral talks with Israel Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, headed for Washington Tuesday for a final round of pre-April 20 talks with senior officials at the U.S. State Department.

Talks between officials at the State Department and the Palestinian delegation, which is composed of Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, Dr. Su'ad al-Amari, Ghassan al-Khatib and Nabil Qassis, will centre around the finalisation of both public statements to be made before the resumption of the talks and further agreements on a table of contents in the Israeli-Palestinian track of the talks.

Key gestures by the Israelis are expected to be made before round nine of the talks convene in Washington on April 20.

According to Amman-based Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials, the Palestinians are waiting for two key statements from the Israelis in announcements which are expected to be made public before April 20.

A concrete reference to a linkage between the interim and final stages of a Palestinian-Israeli peace settlement based on U.N. Resolution 242 is expected. This reference is expected to open the way for a draft agenda in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiating track.

Previously the Israelis had said that they do not see Resolution 242 as a reference point for all stages of the negotiations.

The second point that the Israelis are expected to stress in the pre-talks announcement is a renunication of the use of expulsion as a measure to punish Palestinians, PLO officials said.

But the exact phrasing of the Israeli "renunciation" was still being worked out as Arab delegations met with State Department officials in Washington and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin prepares for talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Ismailia Wednesday.

The Israelis, PLO officials say, want to use a terminology which will not rule out the use of expulsion as a measure in cases of "state security." The Palestinians are pushing for a total commitment not to use expulsions under "any circumstance."

The final phrasing of the Israeli statement may state that the Israelis will refrain from expelling any more Palestinians as long as the peace talks are being conducted.

The acceptance of East Jerusalemite Faysal al-Husayni and other Arabs from East Jerusalem is also expected to be in the "package" of Israeli statements.

As part of a compromise to resume the peace talks, which were indefinitely stalled by the Israeli expulsion of over 400 Palestinians to southern Lebanon in December, exiled Palestinians are tipped to be allowed to return.

Some 150 of those Palestinians still in southern Lebanon as well as some 40 to 50 expellees from the late 1960s and early 1970s are expected to be among the first wave of "returnees" to be allowed back before the end of April.

"The repatriation of almost 200 Palestinians will begin in April if all goes according to schedule," Palestine Central Council member Salih Ra'fat said Tuesday.

In addition to the Palestinians expelled in December, over 2,000 Palestinians, many of whom were community leaders, were exiled by the Israeli occupation authorities.

The only thing Israel has said about the first wave of "returnees" is that they will not include Palestinians expelled during the intifada, said a Palestinian official in Amman on condition of anonymity.

Overall head of the Palestinian delegation Faysal al-Husayni is expected in Amman Wednesday.

PLO foreign affairs chief Faruq Qaddumi, PLO information chief Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh and Palestinian peace negotiator Sa'ib 'Urayqat are expected to head the Palestinian delegation to the April 16 meeting in Damascus of foreign ministers of Arab countries participating in the bilateral talks.

Palestinian sources said the Arab parties will unanimously agree to attend the next round of talks.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi, 72, left for Washington from Tel Aviv, the rest of the Palestinian delegation to Washington crossed to Jordan from the West Bank early Tuesday and headed for the U.S. from Amman.

'Ashrawi Views Talks

JN1304163393 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, said the Palestinian delegation, which left for Washington today, will discuss with U.S. officials the deportation issue as a whole, Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights in the occupied Arab territories, and several issues related to the peace process.

Dr. 'Ashrawi's statements were made in an interview with our correspondent for political affairs [Salim 'Ali Dhiyab].

[Begin recording] ['Ashrawi] In fact, the talks are preparatory ones, and will be held to follow up on several unresolved issues. As I said, discussions will deal with the deportee issue, as a practice that Israel should completely halt; human-rights violations; and the U.S. position on the negotiations. We will also discuss the

negotiating positions of Israel and the Palestinians, and the requisites for rendering the negotiating process successful through commitment to the terms of reference and principles of the talks.

[Dhiyab] In your view, where will this week's decisive contacts lead?

['Ashrawi] There are attempts and intensive political and diplomatic efforts under way at this stage. As you know, meetings will be held in Damascus in a continuation of the meetings of the foreign ministers [from Arab cordon states]. Meetings will also be held in Tunis to evaluate the outcome of these extensive meetings and talks. We hope to be able to remove the obstacles and reach a sound negotiating process that is based on justice and Palestinian rights, and not on any imbalance.

[Dhiyab] Has there been any change in the leadership of the Palestinian delegation?

['Ashrawi] Of course not. The Palestinian team is the same. The Palestinian structure will remain as it is, without change, regardless of the individuals who enter the negotiating rooms. The head of the team is Faysal al-Husayni, the head of the delegation to the bilateral talks is Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, and the head of the delegation to the multilateral talks is Dr. Muhammad al-Hallaj. The official positions remain the same. [end recording]

'Abd-al-Shafi on Deportees

TA1304170093 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 12 Apr 93 pp 1, 11

[By Munir Abu-Rizq]

[Text] Gaza—Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, stressed yesterday that there is no difference between the Marj al-Zuhur deportees and veteran Palestinian deportees. All have the right to return to their homes.

'Abd-al-Shafi added that a proposal has been made for resolving the impasse in the negotiations and Palestinian participation in them. This proposal calls for the repatriation of 400 deportees, but not necessarily all from Marj al-Zuhur. The proposal includes part of these deportees, as the Palestinian side has been assured of the unwillingness of some of them to return. The proposal also calls for an Israeli commitment not to resort to deportation in the future.

On the remarks by Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi to Monte Carlo Radio, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi expressed his regret over such remarks and said that al-Rantisi is not the guardian of the Palestinians to decide who is the Palestinian people's representative. He has no right to classify individuals as he wishes.

The negotiating delegation's head added that al-Rantisi's remarks do not concern us at all. The PLO acts in the national interest in accordance with its view. The masses are the ultimate referee.

'Abd-al-Shafi repeated the Palestinian delegation's stance rejecting participation in the upcoming round unless Israel commits itself to respect the terms of reference of the peace and negotiating process based on Resolutions 242 and 338, implements Resolution 799, stops its violation of human rights in the occupied territories, and pledges not to resort to deportation.

On the escalation of Israeli violations, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that Israel's practice of collective punishment is a flagrant violation of human rights charters, and the delegation has called for international protection. 'Abd-al-Shafi added that these measures will be discussed with the U.S. secretary of state, who is to meet members of the Palestinian delegation in Washington within two days.

In a related development, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that a delegation of Arab Knesset members and representatives of the Palestinian masses within the Green Line will pay a solidarity visit to the strip within two days.

On the Israeli agreement to have Faysal al-Husayni join the Palestinian delegation, 'Abd-al-Shafi said that this represents a Palestinian victory and submission to the Palestinian stance that will insist on holy Jerusalem until the end.

Delegation Members Not To Renew Israeli Entry Permits

TA1404083293 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 14 Apr 93 p 5

[Report by Yoram Binur]

[Text] The members of the Palestinian delegation will not renew their permits to enter East Jerusalem and Israel from the territories. The permits they currently hold will expire within the next few days.

Over the past several days, the Palestinian delegates have come under fierce criticism for accepting the Civil Administration entry permits, which is viewed as a recognition of the closure the Israeli Government has imposed on the territories.

In view of this criticism, the members of the delegation decided not to renew their entry permits. "We should have thought about this beforehand. Accepting the entry permits was a grave mistake on our part," a senior source in the delegation said.

Conflicting Reportage, Opinions on Joining Talks

Paper Says Decision Made

TA1304142293 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 12 Apr 93 p 11

[Text] Arab capitals, as well as the PLO, have decided not to boycott the negotiations and to participate in the ninth round. This decision was made secretly and will be announced following the meeting in Damascus at the end of next week of ministers of the cordon states. AL-MANAR has learned that these capitals have received firm guarantees from the U.S. side on a number of issues they had raised. It has also been learned that the elements of the Arab side are in agreement that the deportee issue should not be a cause for boycotting the negotiations. Sources add that positive steps will be announced by Israel on 25 April.

Delegate Favors Postponement

TA1304191193 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 12 Apr 93 p 4

[Text] Ramallah, QUDS PRESS—Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, deputy head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation to the Middle East peace talks, expressed doubt that the Palestinians will be able to attend the upcoming round of peace talks expected to be held in Washington on 20 April.

In a statement to QUDS PRESS, Dr. 'Urayqat said that the continuation of the current Israeli and U.S. stance means that it is very unlikely that the Palestinians will attend the upcoming round of talks. Dr. 'Urayqat added that this stance does not reflect a desire to continue the peace process. He stressed that the Palestinian side is the one in the region most interested in participating in the peace process.

These remarks by 'Urayqat, who is close to the PLO leadership, came in the wake of statements by some members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks—including Faysal al-Husayni, head of the delegation's steering committee—which hinted that the Palestinians were about to announce a return to the negotiating table.

'Urayqat said that the Palestinian delegation should not behave as if the ball were in its court. He emphasized that the ball is not in the Palestinian court nor is it desirable for the ball to be in the Palestinian side's court. 'Urayqat's remarks indicate a denial of reports about a U.S.-Palestinian deal for resuming the peace talks.

'Urayqat charged that the U.S. stance was biased in favor of Israel. He asked: What is the meaning of the U.S. sponsor's statement that it is the strategic partner of Israel? 'Urayqat added: Why does Washington use Cold War language? Is the United States not supposed to be the sponsor of peace talks in which the Arabs and Israel participate?

'Urayqat added: Continued U.S. bias toward Israel and the U.S. Administration's use of Cold War language amid the continued intransigence of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's government in maintaining the obstacles to resuming the peace talks place a large question mark before the entire peace process and its future.

'Urayqat stressed that no tangible change has occurred in the Israeli side's position and there was nothing new in it.

'Urayqat doubted that the bilateral talks would be resumed on their fixed date, especially since the obstacles placed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin were still there.

'Urayqat added that there are great doubts on the possible resumption of those talks on 20 April. He said that despite the intensive diplomatic efforts being exerted at present, there is no evidence of a tangible change in the Israeli position. Consequently, it would be preferable to discuss seriously the possibility of postponing the date of the upcoming round of negotiations.

With regard to Israel's consent for Faysal al-Husayni to head the Palestinian delegation, 'Urayqat said: The issue is not one of personality. This acceptance means that the unfair Madrid formula has been broken. I would like to affirm that the issue does not concern individuals. Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi is the delegation's head and will remain so. Faysal al-Husayni, as head of the Palestinian negotiating team in its bilateral and multilateral parts, can attend the negotiating meetings he deems appropriate, whether in the bilateral or multilateral talks.

'Urayqat concluded by saying that the chances of participation in the talks are very slim because Israel is not committed to stopping the policy of deportation in the future. He stressed that the basis is implementation of Resolution 799 in spirit. This resolution emphasized the illegitimacy of deportation and the closure of this chapter forever.

It is worth noting that Sa'ib 'Urayqat returned recently to the occupied territories after participating in the cordon ministers' meetings in Damascus and the Palestinian leadership's meetings in Tunis.

'Arafat on Peace Talks

NC1304202593 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Apr 93 p 6

[Report by Ahmad Nafi' on an interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In an interview with AL-AHRAM, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed that Israeli violence will only produce violence. It also jeopardizes the negotiations to achieve peace in the area. He said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will be responsible for the results of the campaigns of coercion and repression taking place against the Palestinian people. The

military campaigns by special Israeli Army units, particularly in the Gaza Strip—the people of which are suffering from starvation as a result of the economic situation—was the subject of extensive discussion during the meetings of the Palestinian leadership.

The Palestinian leadership is holding intensive contacts, particularly with Egypt, prior to the resumption of its expanded meetings in Tunis to determine the final position on participation in the ninth round of bilateral negotiations in Washington on 20 April. Invitations to this round have been sent out by the cosponsors of the Madrid peace conference: the United States and Russia. 'Arafat said that the current meetings, which are being attended by the members of the PLO Executive Committee and a number of leaders from the occupied homeland, were left open following last week's meetings, awaiting a satisfactory U.S.-Israeli position in order to determine our final position regarding participation in the ninth round.

The position the leadership awaits, according to the Palestinian leader, is the fulfillment of promises the Palestinian delegation received during its talks in Washington prior to President Husni Mubarak's visit. These talks were satisfactory in some aspects and vague in others. In this regard, 'Arafat said there are things Israel is supposed to announce regarding the six points the Palestinian delegation presented during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to Jerusalem; regarding the nature of the forthcoming negotiations and adherence to their terms of reference; regarding Palestinian human rights, which are being violated daily in the occupied territories; and regarding other points that 'Arafat did not specify.

Regarding the six points, the Palestinian president noted that they contain two points that the United States pledged to implement and four others that Israel would pledge to implement or on which it would submit a new initiative to prove its goodwill. These points pertain to the negotiations' terms of reference, the Jerusalem issue, Palestinian human rights, the issue of the siege imposed on the Palestinian people, and the issue of the Palestinian deportees and implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for their immediate return. They also seek to tackle the issue of those who have been deported since 1967 in implementation of the spirit of Resolution 799 and to secure an Israeli pledge not to resort to deportations in the future. [passage omitted]

'Arafat explained the role the U.S. Administration must assume if it wishes to become a full partner in the peaceful settlement negotiations, saying: The United States must be an honest broker, dealing with all the Arab and Israeli parties by the same yardstick. [passage omitted]

He continued: We ask the U.S. sponsor to be honest. Here I must point to the need for the present administration to abide by the previous administration's pledges, foremost of which is to resume dialogue with the PLO, end the economic siege on the Palestinian people, and adhere to the negotiations' terms of reference. These include the initiative of former President George Bush and the letter of assurances, which clearly indicated that the negotiations would take place on the basis of land for peace and the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338—that is, Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, fulfilling the legitimate political rights of the Palestinian people, and security for all the states in the region.

Answering a question on what he expects when the negotiations resume, 'Arafat said: I hope there will be an effective U.S. and European role because Israel wants to waste time. [passage omitted]

Regarding the U.S. position on the Jerusalem issue, 'Arafat said the U.S. Administration probably will reaffirm the letter of assurances, which clearly refers to the issue of Jerusalem. The United States does not recognize Israel's decision to annex Jerusalem, and says that its future will be determined in the negotiations. He said: We await the resolution of this matter. [passage omitted]

Answering a question about reports that the U.S. Administration has given new assurances to the Palestinian side, 'Arafat said: There is nothing of this sort. What is important is that the U.S. Administration currently is interested in reaching some sort of arrangement to facilitate the resumption of the negotiations with all the parties. [passage omitted]

Asked why Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] did not participate in the meetings the Palestinian leadership held in Tunis—even though the issue of the deportees, which occupied a major part of the discussion, primarily concerns them—'Arafat said that Hamas does not normally attend meetings of the Palestinian leadership and does not recognize this leadership. It did, however, attend one meeting as an exception.

Asked about his view regarding the ambiguity of this organization's position on many issues, particularly on the decisions of the PLO, the Palestinian leader said: I want to say calmly and unemotionally that despite all the uncordial statements issued by the deportees, we are responsible for this issue, and we speak on behalf of the Palestinian people. We do not tackle the issue of deportation for the sake of this or that person, but for the sake of the people and their future and for the sake of the regional and international recognition of their rights.

The Palestinian leader continued: I want to explain another thing frankly—and let my brothers in Hamas understand this—I have not tolerated Arab intervention in Palestinian affairs, and I am not prepared to tolerate Iranian intervention through Hamas. I have told Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani that he who rejected jihad at the Islamic Conference Organization summit in Dakar has no right to speak about jihad in Palestine. I again say to my brothers in Hamas that the Palestinian arena rejects any Arab custodianship, let alone a Persian one.

Asked about his opinion regarding the stand the Arabs should take toward Iran, which is working against the Arab central cause, 'Arafat said: You have heard my view; no one can pressure us. We know our issue best, and Palestine cannot be liberated by words or one-upmanship. He added: I did not prevent the Iranian Army from entering Tel Aviv, and I did not prevent its missiles from reaching Tel Aviv. Therefore, I ask them not to attempt to outdo us.

'Arafat said that Iran wants to have a share of the Palestinian pie. Palestine for many is a fundamental pie because al-Aqsa Mosque is there, as is the grave of Jesus Christ, the son of Mary.

Mubarak's 'Key Role' in Peace Process Viewed

TA1304142993 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 12 Apr 93 p 4

[By chief editor Hanna Sinyurah]

[Text] In the press conference held after the meeting between Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and American President Bill Clinton, it became apparent that President Mubarak is going to shoulder a major part of the responsibility for bringing the Arab parties to the negotiating table. The Clinton administration did not offer anything new beyond what was told to Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, who visited Washington a week earlier.

Though not a direct party to the Madrid process, Egypt is totally involved and has as much at stake as the other parties to the conflict. If the United States under the Clinton administration sees its role as a mediator and full partner, Egypt under the Mubarak government will play an essential role itself, having special relations with the Palestinian people and the PLO, as well as the other Arab parties. Moreover, the Egyptian government will serve as a bridging mechanism for both Israel and the United States.

Thus, President Mubarak's visit to Washington went beyond an exploratory nature of setting realms for relations with the new Democrat administration and Egyptian-American relations.

The visit was held two weeks prior to the announced date for the resumption of the Middle East talks, and its results are key in the PLO's deliberations in announcing Palestinian intentions of returning to the peace talks.

Secretary of State Christopher's trip to the Middle East outlined the obstacles facing the resumption of negotiations. Yet, it did not produce an Israeli declaration renouncing the use of expulsion, nor did the latest trip to Washington by Faysal al-Husayni. Now, President Mubarak and President Clinton must reach an arrangement that will convince the PLO that expulsion will never be used again by Israel.

Mubarak will meet Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat shortly before his visit with Rabin. American-Egyptian—but not Israeli—assurances will be given to the Palestinians, to the effect that expulsion will no longer be used. An Israeli declaration will not be given on the subject, although expulsion as a policy would be shelved as long as the peace process is alive.

Other items on the Palestinian agenda, as well as other Arab countries' agendas, are the subjects of the Egyptian-American and Egyptian-Israeli talks. Palestinian issues related to improved human rights, American-PLO relations, a total freeze on settlements, participation of Palestinians from East Jerusalem and the Diaspora in the talks will all be part of Mubarak and his aides' dialogue with Clinton and Rabin. Rabin has informed Clinton and will also inform Mubarak about Israeli measures to upgrade the quality of life under the occupation.

Israeli-Palestinian relations, in the meantime, have reached a new level of confrontation. There is no doubt that the Intifadah was the key element in creating the conditions for the Madrid process. But it has not succeeded in convincing the Israeli public that an Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian self-determination will provide peace and security. Under Rabin a crisis atmosphere exists; poisoned relations, fear and mistrust have increased. Change toward peace, the platform that brought Rabin and the Labor Party into power, is the real victim of the confrontation.

Rabin, the election winner, failed to bring about any change, especially in his relations with the Palestinian people. In line with his military upbringing, he has acted like someone wearing blinders. He has believed and acted as if security can be achieved by oppressive iron fist policies. He has resorted to collective punishment, expulsion, curfews, sieges, house demolitions—all the means of repressive measures used under occupation. Instead of change in a positive sense, he has brought disillusionment with the peace process. Numerous people have become victims of these policies, and a violent backlash has ensued that has created a wall of fear instead of hope.

President Mubarak's intended meeting with Rabin will be the last chance to stop the rapid drift of the peace process toward an abyss.

The Palestinian people and the PLO stand fully behind the peace platform announced November 1988 by the Palestinian National November (PNC) in Algiers, and they stand behind the framework pursued by the PLO and the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. Israel voted the Likud out and brought Labor and Meretz in. President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria and the leaders of other Arab countries have indicated their desire for a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. President Mubarak has the key role of translating these intentions into concrete steps to raise us out of this abyss and back to hope and peace.

* Jihad Leader Acknowledges Iranian Funding

93P50150A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Apr 93 p 4

[Excerpt] New York, London—A prominent official in the "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine" organization affirmed that his organization and other organizations definitely receive financial and nonfinancial assistance from Iran.

Fathi al-Shaqaqi, speaking on behalf of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine organization, added that six groups operating in the occupied territories had refused an Iranian request to establish a central leadership for coordination.

Al-Shaqaqi's statements came in an interview he gave in Damascus with the newspaper NEW YORK DAILY NEWS DAY [name as published].

Al-Shaqaqi said that his group has received funds from Iran since 1987. He added that Hamas and four other groups are likewise funded by Tehran, among them two headquartered in Sudan and two other groups operating freely in Jordan. [passage omitted]

*'Security Official' Lists Abu-Nidal Membership

93P50148A

[Editorial Report] Doha AL-SHARQ in Arabic of 19 March 1993 on page 4 carries a Khalil al-Taqi report from Damascus claiming that "a security official in the PLO leadership" had disclosed part of a list of members in the Abu-Nidal (Sabri al-Banna) organization, Fatah-Revolutionary Council (FRC). The Political Bureau is composed of the following individuals:

1. Sabri al-Banna, alias Abu-Nidal, head of the FRC, its secretary general, in contact with parts of the organization through his aides.
2. Isam Marqah, alias Salim Ahmad, became assistant secretary-general in 1987 when he took over the post from Mustafa Murad (Abu-Nizar), but lost this position in 1991 to Mansur Hamdan, keeping his membership in the Political Bureau.
3. Mansur Hamdan, became assistant secretary general in 1991. Before that, he was director of the political office and spokesman for the FRC.
4. Sulayman Samrin, alias Dr. Ghassan al-'Ali, first secretary of the Central Committee and director of the political office of the General Secretariat.
5. Muhammad Wasfi Hannun, alias Wasfi Hannon, commander of the so-called People's Army.
6. Isam 'Awad, alias Zakariya Ibrahim.
7. 'Abdallah Hasan, alias Abu-Nabil, chairman of the so-called revolutionary justice committee, which is the court that issues prison and death sentences against members of the organization and whoever divulges its secrets.
8. Shawqi Muhammad Yusuf, alias Munir Ahmad.

The FRC Central Committee is formed of members of the Political Bureau in addition to the following individuals:

9. Thabit 'Abd-al-Karim Mahmad, alias Zaydan, deputy director of administration in the organization.
10. 'Ali al-Fara, alias Dr. Kamal, one of the organization's most prominent assassins when he was chief of intelligence at FRC headquarters in Libya; there are rumors that he was exiled, and has since disappeared.
11. 'Atif Hammudah, alias Abu-Siham, director of financial administration.
12. 'Ali al-Butmah, alias Samir Darwish.
13. Isma'il 'Abd-al-Latif Yusuf, alias Hamdi Abu-Yusuf.
14. 'Adnan Khalifah, alias Abu-Hazim.
15. Rizaq Sayyid 'Abd-al-Majid, alias Walid Khalid, official spokesman for the FRC in Beirut, was prominent during the Silco ship incident and was assassinated in southern Lebanon in 1992.
16. Nabil Mumhammad 'Abdallah Salim, alias Sari 'Abdallah.
17. Muhammad al-Tahir, alias Fu'ad Abu-al-Tahir.
18. Mustafa Ibrahim Sunduqah, alias Husayn Bin-'Ali, considered the real head of the so-called revolutionary justice committee and one of the most prominent executioners inside or outside of the organization.
19. Hasan 'Aziz 'Abd-al-Khaliq, alias 'Awwad, chairman of the membership and acceptance of new members committee.
20. 'Izzat Jaradat, alias Sulayman, responsible for intelligence administration.
21. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Banna, alias Hassam Mustafa.
22. Ghannam Salih.

The organization's Revolutionary Council is formed of the members of the Political Bureau and the members of the Central Committee in addition to:

23. Hamdi Abu-'Asbah, alias 'Azmi Husayn, representative of the FRC in Libya from 1985-87, then transferred to Algeria in 1989.
24. Ibrahim al-Tamimi, alias Tariq Muhammad, member of the revolutionary justice committee.
25. 'Ali Zaydan, alias Haytham, officer and official in the intelligence administration.
26. 'Adnan al-Farsi, alias Sami Abu-al-Haytham.
27. Majid al-'Akkawi, deputy commander fof the People's Army in northern Lebanon.
28. 'Abd-al-Karim Muhammad, alias 'Awni Jabar, transferred as FRC representative for Sudan, Aden, and Libya.
29. Khalil Khudayr Salahat, alias Mu'min Adham.
30. Hisham Harb, one of the most prominent foreign operations men.
31. Sami Abu-'Ali, alias Mazin al-Khalili, one of the officers and officials of the People's Army administration.
32. Muhammad Habib, alias Salim 'Abd-al-Rahman.

33. Muhammad Ahmad Abu-'Assal, alias Abu-Marwan.
34. Mahir al-Rawsan, alias Walid, brother of Nawwaf al-Rawsan, alias 'Uthman, who was imprisoned in Britain for attempting to assassinate Israeli Ambassador Argov on 3 June 1982 after the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.
35. Sami al-Shayib, alias 'Isam.
36. Walid 'Izzat.
37. Sami Abu-'Ali.

A number of officials and leaders of the organization have resigned throughout its history, criticizing its positions, operations, and purges. They are:

- Hajj Abu-Musa, one of the most prominent military trainers and teachers, killed in murky circumstances at the end of 1987.
- Mustafa Murad, alias Abu-Nizar, one of the most prominent aides of Sabri al-Banna. Murad was assassinated in Libya in murky circumstances on 17 october 1988.
- 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Izzat, left the FRC in October 1989, escaped an attempt to assassinate him in Algeria.
- Yasir al-Saddi, alias Abu-Mu'min, one of the most prominent commanders of the People's Army, assassinated in 1987.
- 'Ayish Abu-Bakr, alias Abu-Farah, was a PLO representative in Czechoslovakia in the 1980's before he joined the FRC. He then left and formed what was called at the time "the Emergency Command" and escaped more than one attempt to assassinate hiim and purge his family before he was able to reach Algeria.
- Khalid al-Madi, a member entrusted with financial administration, left his post for the Far East.
- Faysal al-Kafri, alias Kamal Mansur, split from the organization and diappeared. It has been said that he emigrated to Australia or South America.
- Fu'ad al-Safarini, alias 'Umar Hamdan, was able to reach Jordan after contacting Jordanian intelligence in 1987.
- Wajih Mustafa, alias Abu-Mustafa.
- Buhayj Yunis, sentenced to prison in Austria after a terrorist operation, announced his resignation from the organization and his sentence was suspended.
- 'Uthman al-Rawsh, alias Nawwaf al-Rawsan, sentenced to prison in Britain after attempting to assassinate Israeli Ambassador Argov in 1982. He announced his resignation from the FRC and his sentence was suspended.
- Muhammad Dawud, alias Yunis 'Umran, joined the Emergency Command.
- Zayid Sahmud, alias Basil, People's Army commander, joined the Emergency Command.
- Nabil Tawfiq Musa Hammadah, alias Abu-'Atwan, one of the most prominent officers of the intelligence administration before he left his post, resigned from the FRC, and traveled to Syria and then Jordan.
- Dr. Ahmad Abu-Matar, director of the Sabra publishing, printing, distribution, and press house, separated from FRC after the publishing house's financing was cut off. He then moved it to Syria.
- 'Abd-al-Samad 'Abd-al-Hafiz, former deputy chairman of the Revolutionary Council, announced his resignation.
- Musa al-Husayni, known sometimes as Musa al-Khadri or Abu-Mazin.
- Muhammad Abu-Jabir; announced his permanent resignation from his responsibilities and obligations.
- Mujahid al-Biri, alias Zahir Khalid, effective activity ended when he was in a car-bomb explosion in Sidon in southern Lebanon.
- Samih Muhammad Khudayr, alias Zahir al-Rabi', one of the most prominent intelligence elements, was able to find out many secrets, causing him to be purged after he was suspected of contacting an Arab country's intelligence agency, killed in Athens by a car bomb in 1988.
- 'Abd-al-Fattah Ghazzal, alias Kifah Khalid, assassinated by a car bomb.
- 'Umar Hammadi, alias Wahid Hasanayn, purged by assassination in the al-Rashidiyah Camp in Lebanon in 1990 after he was suspected of contacting Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah leadership to return to its ranks.
- Farid Hijab, alias Qayid Abu-'Arishah, also assassinated by a car bomb in June 1990 because of his knowledge of foreign operations secrets after he was suspected of breaking off his relationship with the FRC.

The Palestinian security source is quoted as saying: "We welcome the return and repentance of some of our young men, but we have prepared a complete file to present to a special court to be formed before the end of 1993. The court will consist of the best and most prominent men of law and judges among the sons of our Palestinian people to determine the responsibility of all who committed terrorist crimes against the Palestinians and against targets that do not serve the aspirations of our people."

OPEC Affairs

OPEC Meeting on Quota Busting Continues

Egyptian Oil Minister Comments

NC1304115093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Egyptian Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi, in Muscat, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo, within the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Abu-al-Majd] On the line from Muscat, we have Egyptian Petroleum Minister Dr. Hamdi al-Banbi. OPEC ministers will meet today to discuss the future of the oil market and other topics. Minister: Among the most important topics on the agenda of your meeting today is the energy tax, which industrial states seek to impose on oil-producing countries on the grounds that

oil, as these states say, is one of the main causes of pollution. In light of consultations last night, what is the view among delegates?

[Al-Banbi] First, we believe the carbon tax is very unfair to oil-exporting countries, because signs or claims that oil heats the atmosphere are scientifically not proven. Even if it was, other alternative sources of energy should be treated equally. In principle, all the colleagues believe in the need to reconsider the imposition of this tax, since it will not make oil competitive with other energy sources; it is scientifically proven that oil will remain the main source of energy for centuries. Such a tax, if imposed, would greatly harm the oil-producing countries, which are mostly from the Third World, and would cause even greater harm to the small oil-producing countries, since it would make their revenues—badly needed for development programs—dwindle.

[Abu-al-Majd] What loss would be incurred if this tax was imposed on the oil-producing countries and how would this affect world trade? These countries import manufactured goods from the oil-importing countries, so won't the loss certainly be mutual?

[Al-Banbi] You are right. This is because the purchasing power of the oil-producing countries will be limited. So their ability to import manufactured goods from industrial nations will also be limited. Initially, this will lead to recession or economic trouble for oil producers and for the industrial states after a short time, because the industrial states will not find markets to sell their goods. Another point is that petroleum products are already heavily taxed in Europe and in other states. For example, the taxes imposed on petroleum products by industrial countries are on average approximately 300 percent.

[Abu-al-Majd] Minister, do you, as oil ministers, have a specific plan to contribute to reducing environmental pollution worldwide and is there a plan to try to impose a tax on products from countries that seek to impose this tax as a counter measure?

[Al-Banbi] These things have not been discussed, but I would like to say that my view, which is that of the Egyptian Government, is that we do not believe in action and counteraction. We do not believe in calculated reactions. We believe in dialogue. Egypt attended a conference in Paris in 1991 and coordinated with Italy and Norway during a conference held in Norway in July 1992. Egypt contributed positively to this conference, the theme of which centered on dialogue between oil producer and consumer. Egypt intends to attend a conference in Spain in July to continue this dialogue. We believe that dialogue is the best thing in this respect. There are other things that could be discussed, most importantly, the need to sponsor scientific research to devise ways of getting rid of carbon dioxide, which is blamed for overheating the atmosphere, or turning it into useful, or at least not harmful, substances. We in Egypt believe that the world, which has reached outer space, invented the nuclear bomb, and made great advances in science, could treat the gas effusion from oil products that are thought to be the cause of the problem and turn it into useful substances. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Oil Minister on Quotas

NC1304124793 Paris AFP in English 1140 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Muscat, April 13 (AFP)—Iraq has completed the repair of its damaged oil sector and boosted production capacity to pre-Gulf war levels, Iraqi Oil Minister 'Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq Hammadi al-Hiti said on Tuesday.

He told reporters output capacity stood at 3.25 million barrels per day (bpd) and export capacity at 2.7 million bpd.

"Thank God, we have been able to reach our previous output capacity. The export capacity is expected to further increase in future," he said.

Al-Hiti confirmed Iraq was producing 215,000 bpd above its OPEC quota of 400,000 bpd but said all the oil was for local consumption.

Iraq is barred from exporting oil until U.N. sanctions imposed after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Asked if Iraq will respond to OPEC plea to return to the quota, he said: "No. It is not possible. We are using the oil for internal consumption. So how are we going to cut?"

He urged further production cuts by oil countries to keep prices high if industrial states went ahead with proposals to impose energy taxes.

"Producers should be serious in maintaining an adequate price through studied measures, including cutting production," he said.

He declined comment on reports by the Nicosia-based MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY that Iraq was negotiating with French and Italian companies to develop its oil fields.

Al-Hiti's visit here is the first by an Iraqi minister to a Gulf monarchy since the war.

Pledge Made To Eliminate Surplus

NC1304132693 Paris AFP in English 1242 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Muscat, April 13 (AFP)—OPEC oil ministers pledged at informal talks here to eliminate a surplus of nearly 300,000 barrels per day (bpd) to boost prices.

"I believe all members are serious about doing this" Qatari Oil Minister 'Abdallah bin Hamad al-'Atiyah told AFP Tuesday. "Let us wait until the end of this month and see".

After the talks late Monday, OPEC secretary general Subroto said cartel figures showed the 12 members supplied about 290,000 bpd in March above their output ceiling of 23.582 million bpd for the second quarter.

But he said the excess output was a carryover from a high production in February of 25.6 million bpd.

"But April figures will be almost equivalent to the ceiling set for the second quarter" he said.

Monday's talks appeared to have remembered the specter of a production war that could have repeated the market turmoil in 1986, when prices plunged to below 10 dollars.

Kuwait has threated to pump 400,000 bpd above its quota of 1.6 million bpd. Subroto said Kuwait had agreed to stick to its quota if all members respected the February agreement by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"Last night's meeting removed misunderstandings and saved the market from another crisis" an Iranian delegate told AFP.

OPEC president Alirio Parra of Venezuela said he expected "strict" compliance by members to their quotas in April.

"There is full support for this production programe, absolutely unanimous support from everybody" he told reporters.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Muhyi-al-Din Nazir, whose country in the world's biggest crude exporter, said "every member will stick to its quota".

Figures supplied by Subroto showed Iran produced 1,000 bpd below its quota although it was believed before to be the main quota buster. Saudi Arabia strictly adhered to its quota while the two other main Gulf Arab producers—Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—produced less.

The following table provided by Subroto shows the quota of each OPEC member and how much they pumped above or below their allocations in March.

Country	Quota (in million bpd)	Difference (in thousand bpd)
Algeria	0.732	- 3
Gabon	0.281	+ 15.7
Indonesia	1.317	+ 3.5
Iran	3.340	- 1
Iraq	0.400	+ 215
Kuwait	1.600	- 6
Libya	1.350	- 41
Nigeria	1.780	+ 173.4
Qatar	0.364	+ 16.7
Saudi Arabia	8.000	0
UAE	2.161	- 84.2
Venezuela	2.257	- 3.9

Indonesian Minister Urges Adherence

BK1304135993 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Indonesia has stressed the importance of OPEC member countries' compliance with the agreement on the oil production quota reached in February 1993. Mining and Energy Minister Ida Bagus Sujana said this to Indonesian reporters after attending an informal meeting of the OPEC ministerial monitoring committee in Muscat, Oman yesterday. What is most important in the efforts to stabilize oil prices is what OPEC countries will do to prevent noncompliance with such an agreement.

Meanwhile, OPEC Secretary General Subroto said the informal meeting in Muscat is aimed at establishing the difference between oil production value and the oil production quota agreed to at the meeting in Vienna last February.

Saudi Minister Says Members Committed

LD1304210693 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2021 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Muscat, 13 Apr, (SPA)—Hisham Muhyi-al-Din Nazir, Saudi minister of petroleum and mineral resources, told journalists today that all OPEC member countries had promised to adhere to the agreement reached last February. [passage omitted]

Nazir answered affirmatively when he was asked a question on whether OPEC's affirmation of its commitment to the agreed upon production quota levels would have a positive effect on prices. He said: We are optimistic and confident that this will happen.

Malaysia Reduces Production

BK1404080893 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0338 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 14 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia has reduced its crude oil production by 20,000 barrels per day (bpd) to support efforts by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to stabilise world oil prices.

Petronas (the state owned national oil corporation) President and Chief Executive Azizan Zainul Abidin said that Malaysia had begun scaling down output from 650,000 bpd to an average of 630,000 bpd since OPEC imposed a new quota on its members last February.

OPEC has set a production quota of 23.58 million bpd among its 12 member countries for the March-June period but several members were said to have ignored this, causing output to reach almost 24.3 million bpd in March.

However, OPEC Secretary General Subroto was quoted as saying in Oman that all member countries had agreed to abide by the quota.

OPEC oil ministers from Algeria, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela are meeting in Muscat.

Ministers or senior officials of oil producing countries which are non-OPEC members like Angola, Colombia, China, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Norway, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, and Yemen, and the Texas Railroad Commission are also attending the meeting.

Malaysia was always prepared to support measures to limit oil output as over-production could depress prices, Azizan told reporters after giving away the Petronas inventors award 1992 here.

The world benchmark Brent blend of crude oil is currently hovering between U.S. $18 and U.S. $19 per barrel while OPEC's objective since 1990 has been to shore up prices to exceed U.S. $21 per barrel.

He said although Malaysia was not a major producer and had only observer status in OPEC, its support was necessary as world oil prices had remained at 1970-73 levels in the face of soaring production and transportation costs as well as inflation.

For the moment, Malaysia, which gets premium price value for its output, sells at U.S. $20 per barrel but if world price increases to U.S. $21 per barrel, Malaysia will get U.S. $23 per barrel, he said.

Azizan said the lower output would not adversely affect Petronas' operations and revenue because it had considered all factors before fixing the production level.

He said producer countries which violated the production quota would not only find difficulty in meeting operational costs but also getting investments to continue developing their oil industries.

Asked if Malaysia would stick to its production level if some OPEC countries persisted in violating the quota, he said: We will wait and see further developments.

OPEC, IPEC Hold Joint Ministerial Meeting

Iraqi Oil Minister Arrives

JN1304135193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Muscat, 13 Apr (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti arrived in Muscat today to participate in a joint ministerial meeting of OPEC and IPEC, the Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries. [passage omitted]

Joint Meeting Opens

JN1304160893 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Muscat, April 13 (GNA)—Omani Oil Minister Sa'id al-Shanfari Tuesday stressed that enhanced cooperation among oil producers is the sure way toward a stable oil market and revived prices.

Addressing the opening session of meetings between OPEC and representatives of other oil producing countries, al-Shanfari said that the two groups are encouraged to realize a unified oil policy and strengthen their economies, reminding that they control a great bulk of the world's oil and gas markets.

OPEC and the Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries (IPEC) represent 95 per cent of the world oil reserves and 90 per cent of the global gas reserves, he pointed out.

Meanwhile, the Omani minister criticised the proposed carbon tax by the U.S. and its western partners, accusing these countries of singling out oil under the pretext of damaging the environment to draw in more revenue at the expense of oil producing countries.

Recognizing the right of consumer nations to protect their interests, he asserted that negotiations not confrontations are the way to safeguard these interests of both parties.

"The impact of high taxation on oil products is difficult to predict at this time," he said, adding that extensive OPEC-IPEC cooperation with assistance from oil industry experts is the most ideal way to realize a suitable solution to the taxes question and safeguard the economies of producers.

He noted that though talks between oil producers and consumers yielded limited results, they must continue, urging world countries to examine the adverse effects of all energy sources, such as coal.

On the domestic front, he stressed that Oman is keen to exert all possible efforts to resolve problems facing producing countries and settle their differences with consumers and preserve the interests of both groups.

OPEC groups Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Iran, Iraq, Algeria, Libya, Gabon, Indonesia, Nigeria, Qatar and Venezuela.

IPEC comprises Angola, Bahrain, Brunei, China, Colombia, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Norway, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, Yemen and the Texas Railroad Commission representing the U.S. State of Texas.

Western Taxes Discussed

NC1304155893 Paris AFP in English 1535 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Report by Nadim Kawash]

[Text] Muscat, April 13 (AFP) - Oil ministers from more than 20 producing countries warned Tuesday that proposed Western energy taxes could destabilise the market.

The ministers from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and independent petroleum exporting countries (IPEC) decided to form a joint group to study the impact of the taxes and coordinate production policies.

"The new wave of tax increases, which are discriminatory against oil, will have a destabilising effect on the oil market and future growth of oil demand" they said in a statement at the end of a day of talks.

The statement did not specify any measures to counter the taxes, proposed by the United States and the European Community.

But it said the conference gave birth to what it called a joint working group to study the effects of the taxes. It is a move that indicates the producers have abandoned confrontation with consumers and are trying to adjust themselves to the impact of the taxes.

"The joint group will meet regularly in order to examine the long-term energy outlook, the impact of the various fiscal measures on the oil exporting countries, and the likely options open to them to mitigate the impacts on their countries" the statement said.

The participants had agreed to convene a workshop by the group, whose members will be named later to examine the effect of energy taxes on consumption and report to the ministers.

The new U.S. tax designed to cut reliance on imported oil will levy 3.5 dollars on each imported barrel of oil, while the EC tax will add 10 dollars by the year 2000 in an attempt to cut consumption for environmental reasons.

OPEC and IPEC producers, who account for about 95 percent of the world's hydrocarbons, fear the taxes will further hit their revenues and spur intensified efforts to find alternative energy sources.

The statement said the taxes would hamper projects in producing states to raise their oil output capacity as such taxes would make it more difficult to forecast oil demand.

"The meeting notes the increasing uncertainties in the long-term energy outlook in the light of the various policy measures being introduced" it said.

"These will complicate the investment decisions of oil producing countries in their efforts to expand production capacity to meet the expected increase in oil demand".

It said some members noted that the prevailing oil price level—near 20 dollars—is not adequate to provide the necessary capital required, maintain or expand the present level of production capacity.

Urging a dialogue with industrial nations the statement said: "The meeting called for increased cooperation among producers, consumers and the international oil industry, at all levels to discuss various issues in order to find ways and means of reducing conflict and future instability in the oil market".

Egypt

Talks Between Mubarak, Israel's Rabin Reported

Rabin Arrives in Ismailia

NC1404095393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0939 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Ismailia, 14 Apr (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin arrived in Abu Suwayr airport in Ismailia this morning, on a one-day visit to Egypt. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi greeted him upon his arrival.

Following the official reception ceremony for the Israeli prime minister, Rabin and Sidqi left for the al-Nakhil guest house, where Rabin will meet with President Husni Mubarak. The talks are expected to begin as soon as Rabin arrives at the guest house.

Following the talks, Mubarak will host a luncheon in honor of Rabin and his accompanying delegation.

Mubarak and Rabin are expected to hold an international news conference at about 1500 [1300 GMT] today, after which Rabin will leave for Israel.

First Round of Talks Held

NC1404102093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1001 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Ismailia, 14 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held a round of talks this morning at the al-Nakhil guest house. The talks between Mubarak and Rabin are expected to resume over a working lunch. Mubarak and the Israeli prime minister are scheduled to hold an international news conference following their talks at the Suez Canal Authority building in Ismailia.

Envoy on Meeting

NC1404083993 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, in Tel Aviv, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on 14 April; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Welcome to our program.

[Basyuni] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Ambassador, let's begin with the imminent visit to Egypt by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the meeting he will hold with President Husni Mubarak. As an Egyptian diplomat who represents a crucial link between Cairo and Tel Aviv, how important do you think this meeting is?

[Basyuni] The visit is extremely important. The region is at a watershed. It is either headed to more escalation, tension, and violence or to peace and stability. Therefore, the visit is crucial. You may know that the ninth round of talks is scheduled to begin, God willing, on 20 April. We hope that we will be able to remove all the obstacles facing the talks so that this round will be held on time. Undoubtedly, the Mubarak-Rabin meeting will be important in removing all the obstacles facing the talks and promoting the peace process on all its tracks: the Palestinian-Israeli, the Syrian-Israeli, the Jordanian-Israeli, and the Lebanese-Israeli.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Ambassador, you have made a reference to obstacles currently facing the peace process. The issue of the Palestinian deportees is probably a major one of these obstacles. From your exchanges with Israeli officials, what new ideas do you think Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will bring in this regard?

[Basyuni] In my view, what matters more is to bring new ideas about the peace process. New ideas are needed if the Palestinians are to achieve the first stage of the settlement, known as the transitional period. New ideas are needed to move the talks forward on the Syrian-Israeli track. The fifth item on the agenda of the Syrian-Israeli track, the one concerning the peace concept and the withdrawal process, also requires new ideas. New ideas to promote the peace process are needed. This, in my opinion, will be a great achievement. I believe the focus should be on moving the peace process toward its ultimate objective, which is to end the occupation. Once the occupation ends, the problems of deportation, deportees, and Israeli practices will be things of the past. This is what matters most. So, we need new ideas to formulate agreements on the various tracks.

[Al-Jundi] Mr. Ambassador, concerning the need for new ideas, let us focus on the Palestinian side. Do you believe that the new ideas that Rabin will discuss with President Mubarak will focus exclusively on the return of some Palestinian deportees in addition to the 100 whose return has been decided, or will Rabin renounce the policy of deportation once and for all?

[Basyuni] As I mentioned, concerning the issue of deportation and its solution, some basis has been established. A deal has been reached by Yitzhaq Rabin and U.S. Secretary of State Christopher. In addition, there are six points that have been formulated in this regard. We are discussing the method and timetable for implementing these points, so as to be able to go back to the negotiating table.

I would like to differentiate between two matters: What happens before we go to the negotiating table and what happens after we sit at the negotiating table. Before we arrive at the table—as I said—there is a compromise agreement and there are the six points. We aim to move up the timetable so as to satisfy all the concerned parties.

What matters more, in my opinion, is what happens once we return to the negotiating table. Serious ideas should be advanced to reach agreements. Concerning the Palestinians, this means linking the first and second stages of

settlement in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 242, as the latter is the basis for the talks. New ideas are also needed concerning the elections—their timing and method—as well as the powers of the elected Palestinian council. All these things are at the heart of the matter. We have to focus on the heart of the matter and avoid formalities and secondary issues. As I said, if—God forbid—the ninth round fails, a spiral of violence will take hold of the region.

Therefore, I hope that the ninth round will continue until an agreement is reached. The invitation for the ninth round calls for it to be held from 20 April to 6 May. In my view, this round should remain in session until tangible results are reached that would encourage the Arabs and Israelis to formulate timetables that may serve as a basis for peace agreements, God willing.

[Al-Jundi] The new and serious ideas to which you refer, do these include the need for Israel to deal with the situation in the occupied Arab territories in accordance with international law? What policy is Rabin expected to follow in the occupied territories to enhance the peace prospects?

[Basyuni] Undoubtedly, this topic will be on the Mubarak-Rabin agenda today. President Mubarak plays a crucial role in the peace process. I am sure the topic you just mentioned will be on the talks agenda. An appropriate atmosphere is needed for the talks. Violence breeds violence. We have to give the Palestinians hope that their problems will be resolved and the occupation ended. The issue of the security cordon will certainly come up in today's talks.

[Al-Jundi] Thank you.

[Basyuni] Your are welcome.

Rabin Asked To 'Chart' New Course

NC1404064793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR writes in its editorial today that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin can chart a course different from that pursued by all the Jewish leaders who preceded him throughout the ages, which will allow every individual in Israel the opportunity to feel the real peace that the majority of people are enjoying everywhere.

The paper advises Rabin to try another form of relations with his Arab neighbors based on coexistence and mutual confidence after half a century of trying relations of hostility and conflict that lacked all the feelings of confidence and sense of peace. It then asks: What other benefits can be obtained from the occupation of Arab territories outside of more conflicts, difficulties, and fears that will result in nothing but more losses for all parties?

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR says that Rabin came to power hoisting the flags of desire for peace but his actions have raised profound doubts about the sincerity of this desire. It adds that he still has enough time to prove the opposite to the world.

'Arafat Agrees 'in Principle' on Joining Peace Talks

JN1404064393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Excerpts] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat has agreed, in principle, on the Palestinian delegation's participation in the ninth round of peace talks on 20 April. Informed Palestinian sources told our radio that the Palestinian president conveyed this stand to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak during a meeting in Cairo. However, 'Arafat stressed that a final decision on this matter depends on making progress in the Israeli stand vis-a-vis the deportee issue and the peace process in light of the talks President Mubarak will hold with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Ismailia. [passage omitted]

Mubarak and Rabin will discuss the peace process and the issue of deportees. It has been learned that Cairo has prepared a new proposal for resolving the deportee issue. The proposal calls for the return of half the deportees this month and the return of the other half in May. President Mubarak will also convey a Palestinian memorandum, communicated to him by 'Arafat, dealing with the essence of the peace process through recognizing the Palestinian right to land and sovereignty, canceling the divisions mentioned in the proposed self-rule plan, and halting the repressive measures in the occupied territories.

President Mubarak rejected an Israeli request to hold the talks with Rabin in Tel Aviv after Rabin's hesitation to accept the Egyptian invitation on the pretext that security reasons prevent holding the meeting on Egyptian soil. However, it was decided to hold the meeting in Egypt without announcing its venue in advance.

Departs After Talks

NC1404055893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2335 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo tonight following a 24-hour visit to Egypt.

During the visit, 'Arafat held talks with President Husni Mubarak on the latest developments in the Middle East in light of Mubarak's tour to the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and the United States.

'Abd-al-Rahman's Stay in U.S. Questioned

NC1404072193 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Apr 93 p 9

[Editorial: Shaykh 'Umar's Mystery"]

[Text] The events surrounding Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's behavior concerning his retrial in Egypt have raised many questions about the circumstances under which he left Egypt three years ago, staying in the United States as a result of procedures which U.S. officials recently admitted were a series of errors.

Ever since he left Egypt, Shaykh 'Umar's name has been associated in the common man's mind with the call for violence and terrorism in the name of religion. The group that is now being tried before a military court admitted in a statement before the court that 'Abd-al-Rahman is their supreme leader and incited them to commit their notorious crimes, starting with al-Sadat, and then Rif'at al-Mahjub, and finally Faraj Fudah. The group members admitted that they will continue the "jihad"—that is assassinations and other terrorist acts—on his instructions. As U.S. records show and Washington officials stated, the truth of the matter is that Shaykh 'Umar entered and stayed in the United States by misleading the authoriites with official documents. Both his entry visa and green card have been withdrawn. However, his application for political asylum has not yet been considered and he is still entitled to appeal his first deportation sentence. Moreover, the American system does not prevent him from giving interviews or carrying out his usual activities, unless he violates the law.

If Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman's stay in America was never understood in past years, and as he still performs "his task" in full freedom, it is certainly a mystery how he still lives there and enjoys almost the same freedoms despite official reservations and excuses for earlier routine mistakes. If Egypt has not officially requested his extradition, this does not mean that he should be left relatively free because of his misleading ways and his deception of the authorities to make his terrorist calls. The matter is suspicious, unless it is thought better to keep him in America under control than to deport him to another place where his activities would be tolerated.

Mubarak on Peace Process, Fundamentalism

PM1304155093 Paris LE FIGARO in French 10-11 Apr 93 p2

[Interview with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak by Charles Lambroschini in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [Lambroschini] The Israeli-Arab negotiations are due to resume on 20 April. But only the Israelis are ready to sit down at the conference table. The Palestinians and the Arab governments refuse, pending the settlement of the problem of the 400 Palestinian deportees. You are due to meet with Yasir 'Arafat on Sunday or Monday. What do you intend to say to him about the obstacle posed by the deportees' affair?

[Mubarak] We are working very hard to find a solution. A compromise reached by the Israelis and Americans makes provision for a gradual return. I hope that this approach will eventually succeed. What is at stake is peace in the Near East. We must therefore not allow ourselves to be obsessed with this problem alone. We must not stop at each obstacle that the people hostile to a settlement, for instance the Iranians, constantly throw across the path. Otherwise we will never reach a comprehensive settlement. It is the interference of elements hostile to the stabilization of the Near East which is behind the problem of the deportees.

[Lambroschini] But it is necessary to proceed by stages. Hence to start by solving the problem of the deportees so that the negotiations can restart.

[Mubarak] The agreement between the Israelis and Americans strikes me as a good beginning. If it can be implemented, it will be a major step toward a solution and, when negotiations start again, I think that the problem of the deportees will be quickly resolved. On the basis of the Israeli-American compromise, we can imagine that half of the deportees could return home now. The rest of the matter could be settled as soon as the negotiations have resumed.

[Lambroschini] In the coming days, you also plan to meet with Mr. Rabin. During the visit you have just made to Washington, Bill Clinton refused to ask for another gesture from the Israelis on the case of the deportees. Do you hope to obtain anything more by appealing directly to the Israeli prime minister?

[Mubarak] I am not trying to obtain anything from Mr. Rabin or to give him anything. What I would like is to prepare the path toward peace. Indeed, it is possible that I will meet with him soon. In that case, we will work to achieve progress in the peace process. The problem of the deportees must not be seen as an insurmountable problem which would justify delaying negotiations.

[Lambroschini] But, faced with the escalation of violence in the territories, what chance does peace still have? Now that, to protect itself from attacks, Israel has closed its borders to the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza, the members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the extremist movement, can say: "Look, we have returned to the 1967 line. If we push a bit further, we will obtain our Palestinian state without negotiating, either with the Israelis or the PLO."

[Mubarak] I do not believe a word of that. Negotiations are the only way of solving the problem. You cannot achieve peace by force. Wars have never solved anything. They make it possible to open the door to negotiation. But, at a certain point, the only remaining option is to sit down at the conference table.

[Lambroschini] Yes, but Hamas does not want negotiation. Contrary to the PLO, all this fundamentalist movement is seeking is to sabotage the peace process. It was obeying that logic when its members murdered an Israeli soldier. And they succeeded because Israel responded by expelling the 400.

[Mubarak] Hamas, Hamas! I am sorry to tell you that a number of elements in that movement take their orders

directly from the Iranians. Tehran does not want peace in this region. Its agents are constantly creating problems with the aim of destabilizing the whole of the Near East. I hope that all the Palestinians, even those in Hamas, will eventually realize that they should not listen to the Iranians, but instead agree to sit down at the negotiating table. It is not the Iranians who have the keys to the solution. They say that Jerusalem must be liberated. But that is all that they are able to do: Talk and talk. Their aim is just to fan the flames.

[Lambroschini] Are Iran's plots outside its borders simply the new version of a Persian imperialism which the shah also advocated? Or, more seriously, does the Iranian regime see itself as the future center for a huge Muslim empire created by the revolt of the poor people against the regimes of Egypt, Algeria, and Saudi Arabia?

[Mubarak] Iran's priority is to gain control of the Gulf countries. And, believe me, the mullahs' regime is not thinking of the poor people. What interests them in the Gulf is oil revenue. If the Gulf countries did not have oil, do you think that Iran would be interested in them? Of course not.

[Lambroschini] Do you not see the Iranians also using their revolution to try to take control of the whole Muslim world?

[Mubarak] The Iranians are Shi'ites. Most of the other Muslims are Sunnis. Because of the simple fact of this difference, which is fundamental, the Iranians will never succeed in mobilizing the Muslim world behind them. They will never stop trying, but it will be a failure. And by what right do the mullahs present themselves as champions of the poor? They are the richest and most corrupt people in the whole region. The Muslims are not stupid, they understand very well what Iran's real intentions are.

[Lambroschini] You have accused Iran of manipulating terrorists in Egypt. Does this mean that your fundamentalists are not intelligent enough to discover for themselves that shooting foreign tourists is a severe blow to the Egyptian economy and a good method of weakening your regime?

[Mubarak] The Iranians are manipulating the several hundred Egyptians who, during the war in Afghanistan, went to fight the Red Army. They recruit them in the camps in Peshawar in Pakistan which the authorities, according to what I have just read in the newspaper AL-AHRAM, have great difficulty in controlling. Once trained and given some money, these "Afghans" are sent back to Egypt where, in turn, they have filled the minds of simple people with false ideas about Islam. For a few dollars, they still find rather innocent people to plant bombs.

[Lambroschini] However, not many Arabs volunteered to fight in Afghanistan....

[Mubarak] That is true. Several hundred from each country—Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia. But it does not take many people to create unrest. In Egypt, there have only been 40 or 50 incidents. But that has been enough for the media to cause a fuss and give the impression that Egypt was in flames. That was not true.

[Lambroschini] So what do you say to the people in Europe or the United States who are already comparing the situation in Egypt to that of Iran just before the fall of the shah?

[Mubarak] It is stupid. There is nothing comparable. Iran was a repressive regime. Eygpt is a democracy, with a free press and many political parties. In Egypt, you can say anything you wish. The only thing you are asked to do is not to break the law.

[Lambroschini] But you also have serious social problems which can easily be exploited.

[Mubarak] Of course. This is the result of great efforts made to reform our economy. During this transition period, the population must bear a very heavy burden. It is the poor who suffer the most negative consequences. But we cannot stop. Ultimately, we hope that the privatizations and modernization will make it possible to achieve our goal, in other words to raise the population's living standard. The Iranians are taking advantage of that. They think they have a unique opportunity to brainwash an entire population. I think they will fail.

[Lambroschini] The Americans allow Muslim extremists to hold religious conferences in their country. The terrorists who planted the New York bomb were immigrants into the United States. Some Washington experts, thinking that the fundamentalist movement is unstoppable, advise the White House to maintain contact with people who are one day likely to be in power. What is your reaction to these facts?

[Mubarak] France gave Khomeyni the right of asylum. You housed, helped, and heeded him. But once he came to power, what did you get in return? Nothing at all. As soon as Khomeyni was established in Tehran, France became enemy number one.

[Lambroschini] Do you therefore think that the Americans were naive to allow into New York Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman, the blind Egyptian who was the religious leader of the New York terrorists?

[Mubarak] The Americans think that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman can become Egypt's Khomeyni. They are mistaken. Once again, Egypt is an open society, in which everybody has a say. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Rahman can return to Egypt whenever he wishes. But he will not be the only one to express his views. He may become America's Khomeyni. He will certainly not be Egypt's.

[Lambroschini] The fact remains that the influence of fundamentalism is increasingly clear in Egypt. There are

more veiled women, more shaykhs preaching on television, and the universities are becoming hotbeds of religious extremism.

[Mubarak] The Western countries always exaggerate. Wearing the veil was fashionable in the forties. Women return to it in cycles. The government has no reason to oppose it. Every Egyptian woman is free to wear the veil or not. If you forbid them to wear it, it will only increase the trend. Let them do what they wish, and after a time women themselves will ask whether this is really what they want. Of course, I admit that there are fundamentalists in Egypt. But their influence is not very great. As for the shaykhs who speak on television, most condemn the extremists and terrorists. Women wearing the veil is the price to be paid for democracy!

[Lambroschini] What proof is there of Iranian interference in Egypt?

[Mubarak] The confessions of terrorists before the judges. Those arrested by the police have said that they received money and weapons.

[Lambroschini] How can Iran send arms to Egypt?

[Mubarak] We have seized the weapons which had been used in Afghanistan and which arrived in Egypt via Sudan. At all events, finding weapons is not really a problem. In Beirut, you can buy them in the street, and in the former Soviet Union there are people everywhere ready to sell anything.

[Lambroschini] You have also made accusations against Sudan.

[Mubarak] Yes, Egyptians are trained by Iranians in camps in Sudan. We know the location of those camps and the Sudanese Government knows that we know. Another example of the Iranian action is the decision by the Sudanese Government to close the annex of Cairo university in Khartoum. We spent a great deal of money there on the salary of teachers, the maintenance of buildings, the provision of books. The Sudanese closed it because the Iranians gave them $15 million. Of course, the Sudanese and the Iranians will deny this story when they see it in your newspaper. But, believe me, it is true.

[Lambroschini] Do you also see Iran behind terrorism in Algeria?

[Mubarak] Why have the Algerians severed their diplomatic relations with Iran and recalled their ambassador in Khartoum? The same tactics have been used as for Egypt: Algerians trained by the Iranians in Sudan have then been sent back to their own country. The Iranians are trying to exploit Algeria's economic problems. They have tried the same operation in Tunisia but the Tunisian president reacted with the necessary severity. The Algerians will need time, but I think that they will eventually put an end to terrorism. I hope that it will only be a matter of months. My advice to Iran would be to treat its own population better. Instead of spending so much money on terrorism, the mullahs should invest for the benefit of their own people, who are suffering.

[Lambroschini] Faced with Tehran's aggressiveness, do you not think the time has come to change strategy toward Saddam Husayn and to restore to Iraq its role as first line of defense against Iran?

[Mubarak] If Iraq had listened to me instead of invading Kuwait, I think that Iran would now understand what its real dimensions and its real place in the world should be. Faced with Tehran, only the Iraqis can restore a balance. I hope that Baghdad will decide to obey the UN resolutions so that the Iraqis can stand firmly on their own feet again and can say to the Iranians: "Stop. Stay in your corner. Do not try to play a role which is too big for you."

[Lambroschini] What about Syria? The Damascus government is now the West's ally, but in southern Lebanon, it is also playing the Hizballah card—the Shi'ite movement which takes orders from Tehran.

[Mubarak] Yes, I know all that. But Syria is a friend, and the fact that Damascus and Tehran maintain good relations does not alter the fact that Syria and Egypt also have good relations.

[Lambroschini] At all events, Syria has found a solution to the problem of fundamentalism. When the Muslim Brotherhood started to oppose Damascus, al-Asad had them all killed.

[Mubarak] What do you want me to say?

[Lambroschini] Is killing, as the Syrians did, a solution to the problem of fundamentalism?

[Mubarak] That is their solution. I am not criticizing anybody, everybody does what they think is right. I have my own solution: Enforcing respect for law and order, encouraging democracy, and raising the population's living standard. This is the most difficult solution, but, ultimately, I think it is the best.

[Lambroschini] Do you take seriously the reports that Iran is trying to equip itself with nuclear weapons?

[Mubarak] If Iran manages to obtain the bomb, it will be a great danger for the world. The United Nations imposed an embargo on Iraq because that country wanted a nuclear capability. The Iraqis have been punished for that ambition. The civilized nations must not allow Iran to look everywhere in the world for the means of obtaining nuclear weapons. I think it is particularly worrying that Iran now has relations in this sphere with North Korea. I said in Baghdad one day that our region of the world should be cleansed of all weapons of mass destruction—nuclear and chemical. What is true for Iraq should be true for Iran. The Near East must be liberated from this threat.

[Lambroschini] Is Iran also plotting in the former Soviet Union and in former Yugoslavia?

[Mubarak] As soon as the USSR disappeared, I was certain that Iran would try to create problems in the new Muslim republics. In Tajikistan, for instance, which is a Persian-speaking country in which the struggle for power has turned into civil war. But it is also true of Bosnia.

Remember the plane which the United Nations seized in Zagreb which was loaded with weapons from Iran. The conflict in Bosnia is the EC's main responsibility. The Serbs recovered all the weapons of the former Yugoslav army but, because of the UN embargo, the Bosnians cannot obtain the means to defend themselves. That is not fair: either you have to be very strict with the Serbs or you have to help the Bosnians.

Libya

People's Congress Official Meets Pakistani Envoy

LD1204091093 Tripoli JANA in English 0821 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary for the Affairs of People's Committees to the General People's Congress yesterday met with Kharaz Pirzada, the ambassador of Pakistan to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The meeting reviewed bilateral relations between Pakistan and the Great Jamahiriyah and the crisis between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Western countries.

During the meeting, the Pakistani ambassador expressed his pride and that of the Pakistani people in the leader of the revolution. He stressed that the people of Pakistan love and hold Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in high esteem and that in expression of this love they named one of the social achievements in Pakistan after Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Present at the meeting was a delegate from the Department of Asia at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

Newspaper Compares UN to League of Nations

LD1104181093 Tripoli JANA in English 1717 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, Al Tayr [April] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper stressed that "international legitimacy" is a mere cover used by the major powers who are the permanent members of the Security Council to fulfill their desires in accordance with their interests and those of their allies. This will lead the United Nations to the same fate as that met by its predecessor the League of Nations.

In today's editorial "Able International Organisation" the paper said that the fate of the UN was no different to the fate of the League of Nations which failed to fulfill the goals and objectives for which it was set up.

The paper pointed out that after 48 years, since the UN was established which came about after the dropping of two atomic bombs on the two Japanese civilian towns Hiroshima and Nagasaki. And considering various stances and international events which emerged on the international scene, it has become clear that the UN, which was set up for the fulfillment of lofty objectives as stated by its Charter, has suffered from a serious deviation which often cost it its credibility, in the eyes of the world, especially among the peoples who suffered the bitter results of aggression or wars against them by other countries.

The UN stood impotent many times, so much so that it was confined to its corridors and offices. This led to the downfall of international legitimacy which was there to blow dozens of times in many areas of the world. The world, which woke up on the eve of the United Nations establishment in the wake of the end of disastrous war which drained mankind's power and energy, which was dreaming of a new world regulated by new laws in accordance with legitimacy which may respect on an equal footing the rights of states, nations, nationalities and creeds without any intervention on its part in the internal affairs.

The establishment of the UN came about as a saviour of mankind from any further wars, but the UN found itself making a myriad of resolutions regarding many issues without any tangible measures for their implementation. For instance, at the level of the Palestinian issue, about which the UN passed many resolutions asserting the rights of the Palestinians to return to their homeland and set up their independent state, but nothing has happened until now regarding this case although the latter is the oldest item on the UN record and which the organisation was set up right after its emergence.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH stressed that in the light of this position of the UN, the major powers who had a permanent seat in the Security Council dictated decisions according to their mood, desire and interests and formulated resolutions regarding them under any chapter which they deemed fit for the way they wish the resolution to be implemented.

Whilst Chapter 7 of the UN Charter concerning enforcement action was used by the major powers as in the case of Iraq and now against Libya, other issues and decisions are dealt with under different chapters which would not advance or affect in any way the issue in question.

Accordingly the slogan of international legitimacy remains a mere cover used by the major powers with permanent membership in the Security Council to realise their wishes according to the requirements of their interests and those of their allies. This returned the UN to the same point which caused the end of the League of Nations. The fate of the UN will not be that different to the League of Nations which failed to accomplish the goals for which it was set up. All indications now predict that destiny for the UN and it is

only a matter of time before that happens for the world is looking for legitimacy to be entrusted to an organisation worthy of this task.

Paper: UN Security Council Lost Its Credibility

LD1204152693 Tripoli JANA in English 1446 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR asserted that it was only Libyans who expressed their dismay at the Security Council's arbitrary resolutions. It said that smaller and nations who have no material or military might are also dismayed at the council.

In an editorial today entitled "The Enlargement of the Animosity Front", the paper stressed that all these nations deplore the double stands policy which became the sole norm in judging international issues.

The paper pointed out that the Libyans who are the victims of the arbitrary decisions of the Security Council stood alone in revealing the false interpretation of international provisions and uncovering the tyranny practiced by the council against the smaller nations.

The paper added that this did not mean that the smaller nations were not in continued anger and hostility towards the council which they deem as siding with the powerful, fear the permanent members which made it up and run it without due regard to any ethics or values of justice on which international treaties claimed that the council was founded.

The paper stressed that all the peoples were aware that the council lost its credibility as an international organ whose task was to maintain international peace and security. It said that in addition to ignoring more than 50 resolutions it passed against the Zionist entity including some resolutions which the council called for their implementation within 24 hours.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR asserted that the council was no longer able to show its credibility towards other peoples who are standing against some of its serious deviations which reached the level of threatening the peace and security and even the stability of these nations and the national orientations of their peoples.

The paper added that it was not only the Libyan people who have been suffering from the deviations of the Security Council and its breaches of its conventions and customs for there were other just cause which preoccupy many peoples and threaten their aspirations but they did not attract any interest from this council which has become like a commission looking after the interests of the powerful nations and plan for the execution of their hostile policies against peace loving nations which did not pose any threat to international peace and security. Accordingly the front of animosity to the council is large and includes many parts of the world which are living in fear and terror of deviations by this council which failed to fulfil its task of keeping international peace and security. Yet this council has become more specialised in punishing the innocent and helpless by allowing intervention in their internal affairs or threatening them with resorting to Chapter Seven of the UN Charter against smaller nations endangering their peace and security and the future of their peoples.

Sanctions Discussed With ICO Secretary General

LD1304090693 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Tayr [April] 13, JAMAHARIYA NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation Bureau held a meeting with Dr Hamid al-Ghabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organisation, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahariya.

The meeting dealt with various issues including the agenda of the foreign ministers of the African Conference Organisation member states, which will be held shortly in Karachi and the actions to be taken by the conference towards the lifting of sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahariya through the false Resolution 748.

Sudan

'Big Opportunity' for Dialogue With U.S. Viewed

JN1304165693 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 13 Apr (SUNA)—Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj, spokesman for the government's delegation to the peace talks with the rebel movement, has asserted that the new U.S. administration has a big opportunity to establish a dialogue with Sudan, adding that an invitation has been issued to George Moose, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, to visit Sudan and see firsthand what is going on here.

This came in a briefing al-Hajj gave as part of his periodic meeting with local and foreign reporters at the Foreign Ministry. He said arrangements for holding the second Abuja meeting in Nigeria on 26 April have been completed, noting that it was agreed that each delegation will consist of twelve members.

Al-Hajj pointed out that the government has proposed some guidelines for the upcoming negotiations, including the continuation of the cease-fire, a halt to fighting among rebel factions, and the continuation of assistance to victims. He added that the other side has announced its compliance with these guidelines.

Army Chief: Hala'ib '100 Percent Sudanese'

JN1404112093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Apr (SUNA)—Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahim has said that the Hala'ib issue is no more than a form of pressure to which the country is being exposed. He noted that Hala'ib is one hundred percent Sudanese and affirmed confidence in the government's ability to tackle this issue. This came during the chief of staff's meeting with officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers in the Fattashah military area.

In his address, his excellency spoke about strengthening the Armed Forces through technical readiness and manpower in order to build a strong army that will safeguard peace.

His excellency stressed that from the beginning, the national salvation revolution has endeavored to achieve peace. He added that the recent government statement on the cease-fire underscores the revolution's eagerness to achieve peace.

Government Peace Delegation Returns 9 Apr

JN1004163193 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 10 Apr (SUNA)—The [Sudanese] Government peace delegation led by Dr. 'Ali al-Haj, the official government spokesman for peace negotiations, returned home from Abuja, Nigeria yesterday. The delegation held Nigerian-mediated negotiations with the John Garang faction within the framework of the preliminary talks of the second Abuja round. [passage omitted]

'Ali al-Haj has stated that the Sudanese Government's program for the second Abuja round of negotiations contains all the desired reasonable solutions, and it is the other parties' turn to show a genuine desire to reach peace by focusing on political issues. He expressed optimism over the success of the next round in Abuja.

April Talks Date Confirmed

EA1004063093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Dr. 'Ali al-Haj, the leader of the delegation to the preliminary negotiations, yesterday confirmed that an agreement has been reached to hold a session of preliminary negotiations of the second Abuja round between the government delegation and the main faction of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army on 26 April. Each delegation will be represented by 12 members. [passage omitted]

RCC Chairman Receives Somalia's Aidid

EA1104063193 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0315 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, has confirmed Sudan's support for the Somali reconciliation accord which was recently reached in Addis Ababa. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir praised the role of the Ethiopian president, Meles Zenawi, and the permanent committee of the Horn of Africa states for achieving this accord. He appealed to all the Somali sides to abide by it.

He said this during a meeting in his office at the Armed Forces' General Command yesterday with Mr. Mohamed Farah Aidid, chairman of the Somali National Alliance.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the assistance offered by Sudan to Somalia springs from its sense of duty towards the Somali people. He confirmed Sudan's commitment towards the people of Somalia until peace and stability are achieved in the country.

Council To Handle Human Rights Planned

AB1204193093 Paris AFP in English 1942 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Khartoum, April 11 (AFP)—Sudan is to set up a high coordination council to take care of human rights in the country, Justice Minister and Attorney General Abdul Aziz Shidu said in a statement published by the official media Sunday [11 April].

Shidu said the council, which was proposed at a meeting he held with Mohamed Al Amin Khalifa, the speaker of the transitional national assembly Saturday in presence of first Foreign Undersecretary Omar Yousuf Beridu and other officials concerned with human rights, would be chaired by head of state 'Umar al- Bashir.

This will be the fourth body set up to deal with human rights in Sudan.

Human rights committees have earlier been set up by the justice ministry, the national assembly and the Sudanese lawyers association.

The one set up by the transitional national assembly last week said it is examining an unspecified number of complaints by individuals on arrests and other grievances.

Kuwait

Labor Official on Prisoners, Relations

JN1304110193 Amman AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 13 Apr 93 p 10

[Interview with 'Abdallah al-Bakr, chairman of the General Federation for Kuwait's Workers and head of the Kuwaiti workers' delegation to the Arab labor conference meetings, by Samirah 'Awad in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Awad] Can you tell us about your efforts regarding the issue of prisoners? What is the extent of the Arab popular and official response to this issue?

[Al-Bakr] The issue of the Kuwaiti and other Arab prisoners and detainees in Iraq is one of our most important priorities in the general federation. We continue to exert efforts and hold contacts with the good Arab and world forces and personalities to help gain the release of our prisoners. [passage omitted]

['Awad] Rebuilding bridges between the Jordanian and Kuwaiti peoples is required by both sides. In your opinion, what are the necessary steps to achieve this goal?

[Al-Bakr] Relations among Arab peoples should continue to exist and are necessary. Popular organizations before governments should play a major role in this regard. We hope that arrogant writings and statements here and there will stop. [passage omitted]

['Awad] There are reports about a U.S. request to cancel the Gulf boycott of Israel as a prelude to ending the Arab boycott. There is a popular Gulf rejection of this. Do you believe the United States can impose this at the current stage?

[Al-Bakr] Our reply is that this is incorrect and rejected strongly. We are part of the Arab homeland. Our stance toward the Palestine question remains as it was and has not changed.

FKW To Help Restore Rights of Arab Workers

JN1204102093 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Federation of Kuwaiti Workers (FKW) will fully support the rights of those who have sustained losses as a result of developments in the Gulf and will help them regain these rights, according to 'Abdallah al-Bakr, chairman of the FKW who is taking part in the Arab Labour Conference in Amman.

The federation, he said, would particularly work towards restorating the rights of those who used to work for Kuwaiti government ministries, organisations and public sector firms.

Reports in the Jordanian press last week quoted several Kuwaiti delegates, including the head of the official delegation to the labour conference, Muhammad Shabnan al-Shamir, as saying that their country was committed to granting all previous employees their full rights.

The papers quote 'Aqil Ahmad Jasim, director of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Industry, as saying that the aim of Kuwait's participation in the Arab Labour Conference was to contribute to the re- establishment of pan-Arab solidarity, and as a goodwill gesture, Kuwait will be ready to grant workers of various nationalities their full rights.

Post of Kuwait Investment Office Chairman Abolished

LD0804211693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1732 GMT 8 Apr 93

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Apr (KUNA)—Nasir al-Ridan, minister of finance and planning and chairman of the General Investment Authority, announced today the appointment of 'Ali 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid al-Badr as delegate member of the Authority, the abolition of the post of chairman of the Kuwait Investment Office in London, and the transfer of the powers of the post to the delegate member of the Authority [al-Badr].

The minister made clear in a press statement that this step fell within the context of the strategy of restructuring the Authority in an effort to boost its supervisory role over Kuwaiti investments. The management board of the Authority met in its new composition on 5 April to deal with various issues. It is worth mentioning that in accordance with amiri decree 59/1993 issued on 29 March 1993, the board of management of the General Investment Authority for the next four years consists of: The minister of finance (ex officio); the minister of oil (ex officio); the governor of the Central Bank (ex officio); the undersecretary of the Ministry of Finance (ex officio); Badr 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Mukhayzim; Barraq Khalid al-Marzuq; 'Abd-al-Rasul Yusuf Abu-al-Hasan; 'Abd-al-Latif Yusuf al-Hamad; ' Ali al-Rashid al-Badr.

Qatar

Ukrainian Prime Minister, Delegation Visit

Received by Amir

JN1304144093 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Doha, 13 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, received Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma and his delegation in Doha today.

The Ukrainian prime minister handed the Amir of Qatar a written message from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, underscoring Ukraine's desire to promote ties with Qatar in all fields.

Further on Meeting With Amir

LD1404031593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1655 GMT 13 Apr 93

[By correspondent Viktor Lebedev]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 13 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—A Ukrainian delegation headed by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma has had official meetings and talks in Doha, the capital of the State of Qatar, today.

The delegation was received by Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad al Thani, the Emir of Qatar. During the meeting the head of the Ukrainian Government handed to the ruler of Qatar a personal message from Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk. Later on official talks were held at which the Qatar side was headed by the emirate's crown prince, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the minister of defense. According to a report from the QATAR NEWS AGENCY, the talks were devoted first and foremost to an examination of the prospects for Ukraine-Qatar ties and business cooperation in the sphere of trade, the economy, and culture. Particular attention was paid to discussion of the possibilities for cooperation in the sphere of extracting and refining oil and gas.

The Ukrainian delegation left Doha by air today. It also plans to visit Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait.

Talks With Heir Apparent

JN1304142593 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Doha, 13 Apr (WAKH)—A delegation representing Qatar and led by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense, held an official round of talks in Doha today with a Ukrainian delegation led by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said that the talks centered on bilateral relations and areas of joint economic, trade, and cultural cooperation.

The Qatari and Ukrainian delegations studied practical ways of promoting diplomatic relations between the two countries based on mutual respect, noninterference in each other's domestic affairs, and adhering to UN charters.

The two sides also discussed the possibility of coordinating economic and trade cooperation, particularly in the fields of oil and gas.

During the talks, in which an atmosphere of understanding prevailed, the Qatari and Ukrainian delegations discussed foreign policy affairs and expressed their eagerness to see peace realized throughout the world.

Prime Minister, Delegation Depart

JN1304152993 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1435 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Doha, 13 Apr (WAKH)—Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma left Doha today following an official two-day visit to Qatar as part of his current tour of the region. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Albanian Delegation Visits SABIC 13 Apr

LD1304211493 Riyadh SPA in English 1943 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, April 13, SPA—Visiting Albanian delegation which comprises the ministers of finance, telecommunications, and industry and minerals, visited here today the Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC).

The members of the delegation were briefed by SABIC's Managing Director Ibrahim Bin-Salama on the industrial development in the kingdom as well as SABIC's productive and marketing program.

Bin-Salama urged the Albanian side to open new horizons for the Saudi petrochemical products in the Albanian market.

For their part the members of the Albanian delegation reiterated their keenness on enhacning cooperation between the kingdom and Albania in the industrial and commercial sphere.

Earlier today the members of the delegation visited the Chamber of Commerce and Industry where they were welcomed by the chamber's President Abdel-Rahman al-Jiraisi and a number of officials.

Minister: Jordanian Workers Receive Care, Attention

JN1304103893 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 13 Apr 93 p 1

[By Nabil Ghazzawi]

[Text] Amman—Saudi Labor Minister Muhammad 'Ali al-Fayiz has stressed that Jordanian workers in Saudi Arabia receive care and attention and that the Gulf crisis has not affected them in any way. He added: We did not dismiss any Jordanian, Arab, or non-Arab worker except those who completed their work contracts and could not find other work.

Minister al-Fayiz said: I would like to underscore what [Jordanian] Labor Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti noted that the Jordanian workers receive every appreciation. Al-Fayiz added: The Saudi, Arab, foreign, Muslim, and non-Muslim nationals receive the same treatment in accordance with the labor law.

In his statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-Fayiz said that his country's participation in the meetings of the 20th Arab labor conference, which convened in Amman, came as part of the Saudi policy to take part in Arab conferences and meetings to restore cohesion and close ranks among the sisterly countries.

Popular Committee Donates Money to PLO

LD1104202293 Riyadh SPA in English 1952 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, April 11, SPA—As per directives of Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the governor of Riyadh Region and chairman of the Popular Committee for Support of Palestine's Mujahideen, a sum of 4,413,499 Saudi rials of the committee's revenue has been remitted to the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, on Sunday.

Abdulrahim Jamoos, director general of Popular Committee's offices in the kingdom told the Saudi press agency, SPA, that the sum represents the fifth batch of the revenues of the committee remitted to PLO during this hijri year.

On behalf of the Palestinian leadership and people, Jamoos expressed deep-seated thanks and appreciation to custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Crown Prince Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the second deputy premier, Prince Salman, the Saudi people and government for constant concern on the Palestinian people and their just cause.

Citing the generous moral and material assistance being rendered by the kingdom for the Palestinian people, the Palestinian official highlighted the honourable stands of the kingdom towards the people of Palestine on all Arab and international levels.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Receives Bosnian President

JN1304140793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Rawdat al-Rif, 13 Apr (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Bosnian president briefed Shaykh Zayid on the deteriorating situation in his country and the efforts being made to realize security and peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid emphasized the UAE's firm position in support of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the face of unjust Serbian aggression. His highness urged the international community to support the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in their ordeal, and to participate in efforts aimed at ending injustice and bringing this human tragedy to an end.

Yemen

Minister Affirms Elections 'as Scheduled'

JN1204082093 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Apr 93 pp 1, 17

[By Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Amman—Yemeni Labor Minister Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman Dhiban has emphasized that the Yemeni parliamentary elections will be held as scheduled on 27 April, and that there is absolutely no truth in allegations that they will be delayed.

Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman Dhiban categorically denied that certain security developments in the Yemeni arena are linked to the elections, adding that what is taking place is normal and similar to what happens in most countries.

He told SAWT AL-SHA'B that it is not true that there are attempts to sow sedition among the Yemeni people, and said the Yemeni Government is eager to have good and amicable relations with all quarters.

At the same time, the Yemeni minister did not deny that some quarters view as unsatisfactory the Yemeni unity and the democratic policy followed by the government, in addition to the freedoms issues, but he said: This is an internal affair in which no one has the right to interfere.

Answering a question, Engineer Dhiban said that Yemeni oil policy has concentrated not on spending but on productive projects that strengthen the economy.

Prospects for 'Clean' Elections Viewed

NC1204142693 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 8-14 Apr 93 p 3

[Report by Dr. Wahid 'Abd-al-Majid of the AL-AHRAM Center for Political and Strategic Studies: "Yemeni Pluralism?"]

[Text] The postponement of elections in Yemen late last year, based on the report of the electoral Higher Council into the difficulties facing a vote last November, sparked off a fresh round of fear and protest among political parties and organisations.

The newly unified state was already in the throes of political turmoil, witnessing food riots, terrorist attacks and a number of kidnapping attempts against foreigners.

In an attempt to placate the people's anger, the Presidential Council went out of its way to assure them that elections would definitely be held on 27 April. It also opened the door wide for candidates to register.

Elections in Yemen have a political importance which belie the remoteness of the country. It represents an example of democratic changes which, if successful, could be adopted by other Arab states.

Despite the atmosphere of political instability, many believe that the Yemenis attempt to lead a more democratic way of life has been more successful than that of the Algerians. There, when the ruling party had to cede power to the Islamists in December 1991, the whole democratic experiment collapsed after a peaceful coup was organised.

For Yemenis, the future of the country lies in their attempt to overcome the difficulties of the transitional period, and in being able to reach political and economic unity on a more constitutional basis. It is widely accepted that such steps cannot be achieved except through national elections.

The prospects of clean and successful elections are rising. The two ruling parties have agreed on guidelines regulating their political activities. (The two represent the leading political powers in the two former Yemens).

A pact enshrining the guidelines was signed last month by 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, President of the General People's Congress (GPC), and Vice-President of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) 'Ali Salim al- Bid. The pact promises fair elections as a means of expressing the people's will and guarantees the democratic experiment in Yemen.

On the one hand, the pact enhances the credibility of the two parties who accept the rotation of power. It also implies that they are both willing to give up power if election results went against them.

But the pact ignores other opposition parties which accepted the same guidelines beforehand and denounced violence as a means to power. The unsuccessful attempts to hold together a broader national dialogue as a means for all parties to express their views, however, seems to have forced the two parties into committing themselves to signing the pact without waiting for the others to join them.

Since then, the minor parties have coalesced into three separate movements, each with its own conference: the National Conference, the Parties and Popular Organisations Conference and the Islamic Conference.

Although the pact has given more hope for successful elections, it could not defuse the crisis at the top which is the difficult relationship between the two ruling parties. They have merged to a certain extent, but all their attempts to move towards political and electoral alliance have so far failed.

The results of the elections could, however, usher in a coalition of necessity between the ruling parties, or a new formula altogether consisting of the three other movements with the YSP and GPC as the opposition.

Observers believe that the results will also reflect the negative side of the turbulent transitional period. At this stage, the GPC is seen as being more capable than the YSP—known to have had Marxist tendencies in the past—of developing a popular stand against such a sometimes chaotic and ugly period.

This will also help the GPC to face down the competition from the Yemeni Gathering for Reform, an Islamist party led by Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmar. This group poses an undeniable threat to both main parties. It is influential with a wide factional base and popular enough to harbour hopes of forcing itself into a coalition with the GPC or some of the other minor parties.

The prospect of such a coalition between Islamists and the GPC is serious not only for other Arabs but for southerners who will feel unfairly represented in power. In such an eventuality, the most likely scenario would be for a reorganisation of power bases in the north to make room for another southern party to enter into coalition with the GPC.

April Elections Draw 4,600 Candidates

JN1104112293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Sanaa, 11 Apr (INA)—Some 4,600 candidates, including 60 women, will run for the forthcoming elections of the Yemeni Council of Representatives.

An official source at the Higher Committee for Elections told an INA correspondent in Sanaa today that most of the candidates are independent national figures, as well as personalities representing most Yemeni political parties and organizations.

He pointed out that the committee will examine the candidacy of 60 people to ensure they meet all legal requirements.

So far, 2,692,640 voters have signed up for the 27 April parliamentary elections. The voters include 501,591 women. Yemen's population is 14,200,000.

U.S. General's Comment on Normal Ties Cited

JN1304143193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] General Joseph Hoar, commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East, has made a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ in which he asked the six Gulf Cooperation Council states to exert more efforts to acquire means of deterrent power. He said relations between the United States and Iraq could return to normal if Baghdad shows full commitment to the UN Security Council resolutions.

Paper Deplores 'Silence' Over Allied Attacks

JN1404102293 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH strongly criticizes the Arab League and United Nations' policy of complete silence over continued aggressive U.S. practices against the people of Iraq.

In an editorial published today, the paper notes that Iraq has addressed scores of memoranda of protest and condemnation to the Arab League and the United Nations, informing them that the Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers continue to provide ground and air facilities to U.S., British, and French aircraft, which violate Iraq's airspace, conduct espionage activities over its territory, and attack its people.

The paper wonders whether the United Nations is unaware of the fact that international conventions and international law ban such practices. The paper deplores the fact that the Arab League has failed to "denounce and condemn" the use of Arab territory for launching aggression against other Arab territory. The paper questions the silence maintained on the issue by those who raised a "hue and cry," contending that "they cannot but oppose the aggression of an Arab against another Arab" regardless of any circumstances, reasons, or conditions. The paper also questions the stand of those who have continued to monitor Iraq's conduct closely and meticulously at a time when they lent deaf ears to the activities of espionage and fighter aircraft, which have violated Iraq's airspace and dropped flares as well as cluster bombs on its territory, as happened in the Saddam Dam area a few days ago.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: Those who have chosen to go to excess in their pursuit and endorsement of double standards at the urging of the U.S. Administration will, with the passage of time, awaken to an Arab and international rejection of their stands and decisions. This is because the Arabs as well as the international community are fed up with the "double standards and selective approach" which are being employed. The pursuit of double standards and a selective approach has allowed Israel to turn the United Nations into a "laughingstock," thanks to the U.S. and Western support it is receiving; whereas "the world body finds nobody to intimidate except the Arabs, particularly those who oppose U.S. hegemony and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's calls for ending the economic boycott of Israel."

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: Let the deaf take a look at scores of areas in the world and see the hellish strife and wars they are experiencing—strife and wars which have caused the death of tens of thousands of victims and produced millions of wounded, displaced, and famine-stricken people. This state of affairs has materialized only after the United States started its efforts to impose its custodianship on the world and to control world policies and economies as well as the political options of world peoples. Let them take a look at all that. Or have they become deaf, dumb, and blind, deprived of all insight?

Health Minister Interviewed on Current Issues

On 'Rampant Unemployment'

JN1004062693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 93 p 2

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Iraq, once the biggest Arab employer of foreign workers, now suffers from rampant unemployment as a result of the sweeping international sanctions imposed against it in 1990, according to a senior Iraqi official.

Labour Minister Umid Midhat Mubarak also said Iraq, which was largely self-dependent on consumer products, was suffering from almost-total crippling of its industries in the absence of raw materials and spare parts denied to it under the sanctions.

Dr. Mubarak, who is also health minister of the beleaguered country which has found itself diplomatically isolated in the wake of the Gulf crisis, said Iraq remained open to "dialogue that would guarantee the interests of all parties provided that it would not undermine the sovereignty and territorial inegrity of Iraq and would not interfere with internal Iraqi affairs."

The minister, speaking to reporters on the fringes of an Arab labour conference now under way in Amman, said unemployment among the 18 million Iraqi people was an issue of major concern to the Baghdad government.

"For the first time in Iraq's history, we are suffering from rampant unemployment as a result of the sanctions," he said, noting that his country was once the largest employer of foreign workers in the Arab world.

The minister could not provide precise figures on the total work force of Iraq or on unemployment. "The figures varied from month to month and year to year, depending on the military situation," he said, referring to the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and the 1991 war over Kuwait and the armed forces' swift recruitment and demobilisation campaigns.

Dr. Mubarak said Iraq employed more than three million foreign workers, the bulk of them Arabs, prior to the Gulf crisis sparked by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Now, he said, around 400,000 guest workers remained in the country.

Among them are Egyptians, Sudanese, Yemenis, Indians and Pakistanis as well as Jordanians and Palestinians, he said.

But major industries remain crippled and there is very little Iraq could do in this respect as long as the sanctions remain, he noted.

"The scarcity of raw materials and spare parts resulting from the international sanctions and other devastating effects of the war has forced the closure of the bulk of Iraqi public sector and private sector industries," he said.

Thousands of Iraqi factories have been closed down and those which are operating are doing so with a minimum level of employees since they lack raw material, he added.

Dr. Mubarak denied that Iraq was witnessing a high rate of crime resulting from unemployment and said that, if anything, the level of crimes in his country was much less than many others "which have not gone to war or found themselves under crippling sanctions."

According to the minister, the Iraqi people have "adjusted themselves to the situation and rationalised their consumption." He noted that the government was subsidising a good part of the people's food needs and "this has alleviated the social burden on the Iraqi individual."

Dr. Mubarak said despite the absence of advanced equipment and expertise, the Iraqis had managed to push their quest for development. He cited as examples the building of the "Saddam River," a congruence of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, and plans to launch the "fifth and fourth river projects." He did not give details of the projects.

The minister, however, conceded that Iraq was finding it difficult to rebuild many of the sites that were destroyed in the war. "We do not have spare parts and equipment," he said.

He said Iraq was hoping that the Amman conference would come out with a call, among other things, for an immediate end to the international sanctions.

According to the minister, the "positive atmosphere of the conference is dramatically opposed to the situation that we witnessed at earlier Arab gatherings," and that the "minimum we could ask for is a demand that the sanctions against Iraq be removed and Iraqi assets frozen abroad be unfrozen."

He attributed the "positive atmosphere" to the "wise leadership of His Majesty King Husayn and the dynamic understanding of Labour Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti," the Jordanian chairman of the conference.

According to the minister, the very fact that the conference is being held in Jordan with mostly ministerial-level participation from the Arab League members is "an indication of the awareness of the Arabs of the plots against the Arab nation and the conspiracies inherent in the efforts to establish a new world order dominated by one world power."

Dr. Mubarak said, he had exchanged greetings and held technical consultations with all delegates to the conference except the Kuwaitis, who are represented by the under-secretary of the Ministry of Labour.

The Iraqi minister criticised what he described as "the double- standard of the United Nations" in dealing with the Middle East.

"We are sure that the sanctions against Iraq will not be lifted through the initiative of one country or another," he said. "But, we the Iraqis, will quash the impact of the sanctions through our own efforts."

On Sanctions, Health Services

JN1004063193 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Apr 93 p 3

[By P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Health services in Iraq have steadily deteriorated since the imposition of international sanctions against the country in 1990, and Iraqis are witnessing a reemergence of preventable diseases which had been eradicated before the Gulf crisis, according to a senior Iraqi official.

The sanctions, imposed as a punitive measure following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, have also forced Iraqi hospitals to close and to admit only emergency cases, Health Minister Umid Midhat Mubarak said.

The minister, speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an Arab labour conference in Amman, said Iraq was not producing 12 per cent of its medicinal needs, and international assistance to the country's 18 million people was minimal.

"The sanctions have caused acute shortages of medicine and equipment," Dr. Mubarak said. "We can only provide a fraction of the health services that the Iraqi people need."

He said that only between 30 and 50 per cent of hospital beds were being used, and that too was for emergency cases, and non-emergency "cold cases" were being deferred, "leading to further complications and side-effects."

"We are in a vicious circle," he said. "lack of vaccines, laboratory equipment, and the general state of sewerage

and fresh water supplies badly affected by the war have limited out abilities to fight and prevent the spread of contagious disease."

Surgeries have gone down by 86 per cent and only 82 per cent of cases that need close study and investigations are being attended to, he said.

"We don't have anaesthetics and as such as cannot perform many operations," the minister said.

Dr. Mubarak noted that Iraq imported medicine and related supplies worth $600 million to $700 million every year prior to the crisis sparked by its invasion of Kuwait.

"No single (relief) organisation can meet the needs of the Iraqi people," said the minister, describing relief offered by various international institutions, non-governmental organisations and the United Nations as a "drop in the ocean."

Dr. Mubarak said the sanctions, which ban all Iraqi exports—the country's mainstay revenue—were preventing the government from raising funds for imports of food and medicine.

"We are seeing a six-to 12-fold increase in the number of cases of several diseases," including hepatitis B, he said, adding that many preventable diseases, like cholera and measles, "which were totally eradicated (before the crisis) are now reappearing."

The minister said an immunisation campaign launched in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in December and January was "highly successful" and about 92 per cent of Iraqi children under the age of five were now protected against major killer diseases.

The success of the campaign was largely due to the "cold chain" storage and transportation facilities extended by UNICEF, he said.

According to the minister, more than 1,350 children under five die every month in Iraq compaired with 713 before the crisis.

Overall the infant mortality rate has gone up from 25 per 1,000 to 124 per 1,000, and the maternal fatality rate has gone up four-fold, he added.

Malnutrition among the entire population is another problem, Dr. Mubarak said, adding that 47 percent of all new-borns are underweight—less than 2.5 kilogrammes at birth—compared with 17 percent prior to the imposition of sanctions.

According to the minister, "in the best situation, an Iraqi adult is getting 1,800 calories per day, compared with the acceptable minimum of 3,000 calories."

Government-subsidised food and the abundance of calorie-rich dates has helped the Iraqi people to survive in the face of shortages, he said. But, overall nutrition-related cases have gone up to 47 percent from two percent, according to the minister.

Dr. Mubarak, who has been working with the Iraqi health system since 1967 after graduating from an American university, also reported seeing a large number of "kwashiorkor" [as published] and other malnutrition cases compared with just three before the Gulf crisis.

The minister assailed the international community for what he described as indifference. He noted that Iraq had not received shipments for orders worth $20 million for medicines and supplies placed in January and February 1990, several months before the crisis.

The shipments were apparently blocked as a result of sanctions, which also froze Iraqi assets abroad.

The countries on whom the medicine orders were placed include the U.S., France, Italy, Germany, Bulgaria, Poland, Japan, Canada and Sweden, he said, noting: "These countries are ardent advocates of human rights and freedoms."

Opposition Figure Opposes 'Foreign Intervention'

NC1104152093 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Major General Hasan al-Naqib, a prominent figure in the Iraqi opposition, said that he is against the intervention of a foreign force to overthrow tyrant Saddam Husayn and his regime. Change in Iraq is imminent and will be a purely Iraqi enterprise, he added.

In statements published today, Maj. Gen. al-Naqib said that the Iraqi opposition is relying on the Iraqi military forces to rescue our people. He added that he is opposed to attacks against the Iraqi Army as a means of bringing down the ostracized tyrant, because this would lead to the killing of innocent servicemen. Maj. Gen. al-Naqib, however, stressed the importance of mounting operations against those Iraqi officials who persecute or kill Iraqi citizens.

Maj. Gen. al-Naqib pointed out that the Iraqi opposition aims to win international recognition as the legitimate substitute to the regime of the ostracized tyrant.

Oil Minister Leaves for OPEC Meeting

JN1104125693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1212 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Apr (INA)—Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd- al-Razzaq al-Hiti left for Muscat today to take part in the two-day joint ministerial meeting of OPEC and the group of the Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries, IPEC, scheduled to be held there the day after tomorrow, Tuesday.

In a statement to INA, the minister said the meeting would discuss future oil industry, including investment needs, the industrial states' policies, the tax they intend

to impose on oil to reduce consumption and dependence on it, and the impact of this on international oil trade.

He added that the participants would discuss a number of issues pertaining to the environment, future international supply and demand on oil, and international relations in the field of energy and their impact on international trade.

Kurdistan Legislative Council Law Amended

JN1004175693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Revolution Command Council Decree No. 61 of 6 April 1993]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq.

In the name of the people.

The Revolution Command Council [RCC].

Decree: No. 61

Dated: 15 Shawwal 1413 hegira, corresponding to 6 April 1993

In accordance with Paragraph A, Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decreed to issue the following law under No. 6 of 1993, a law amending the Legislative Council of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan Law No. 56 of 1980.

Article One: Article 48 of Legislative Council of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan Law No. 56 of 1980 shall be amended as follows: Article 48: The Legislative Council shall meet in Irbil. When necessary, it can also meet in any other place in the Republic of Iraq through a decision by the president of the Republic.

Article Two: Article 52 of the law shall be amended to read Article 52: I; and the following paragraph shall be added under Article 52:

II. The President of the Republic can, through a presidential decree, extend the Council term if national interest dictates such a measure.

Article Three: This law shall be implemented as of the date of its issuance.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Kurdistan Legislative Council Term Extended

JN1204120793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Republican Decree No. 60 of 4 April 1993]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Republic of Iraq.

Republican Decree No. 60.

In accordance with Paragraph 2 of amended Article 52 of the Legislative Council of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan No. 56 of 1980, we decree the following:

The term of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region shall be extended for two years as of 9 May 1993.

The competent authorities shall see to the implementation of this decree.

Written in Baghdad on 15 Shawwal 1413 Hegira, corresponding to 4 April 1993.

[signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Rabin Departs for Meeting With Egypt's Mubarak

TA1404083793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] A short while ago, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left for Ismailia, where he will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. No speeches were made prior to Rabin's departure.

In under 30 minutes, the prime minister's plane will land in Abu- Suwayr.

'Strict Measures' Following Radioactive Leak

TA1404064493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Strict measures have been implemented in Hamakhtesh Haqatan [small crater] area in the Negev in an effort to prevent contamination with radioactive radiation detected in the crater after the Dimona Nuclear Research Center siphoned liquid waste containing radioactive materials into one of the crater wadis several months ago.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that figures involved in the affair took action to prevent publicity.

Southern Command Commander Matan Vilna'i issued an order closing off the crater area to the general public, with the exception of traditional hiking routes.

No 'Unusual' Findings

TA1404095093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The Atomic Energy Commission says the liquid waste siphoned by the Dimona Nuclear Research Center into Hamakhtesh Haqatan Wadi a few months ago poses no health or environmental hazard. The commission spokesman told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that the area had been thoroughly examined, with every specimen being subjected to three levels of inspection, and that nothing unusual was found in any of the checks. Therefore, excursions along established routes in Hamakhtesh Haqatan can be planned without fear.

Baraq Comments on Lebanon Fighting, Deaths

TA1404063893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Yesterday's event in south Lebanon was followed by relative quiet in northern Israel. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports from the northern border:

[Begin recording] [Aviv] According to reports from Lebanon, the last sounds of gunfire in the security zone were heard around 2200 [1900 GMT] last night, when a barrage of katyushas landed in the area of Marj 'Uyun in the security zone, causing no casualties.

Three paratroopers were killed in yesterday morning's incident: Captain El'ad Ben-David from Ashqelon, Lieutenant Moshe Bari from Rehovot, and Staff Sergeant Peter Rappaport from Beersheba. The 10- member paratrooper unit, commanded by Major El'ad Ben-David, was on foot patrol west of al-Tayyibah and east of al-Qantarah when it spotted a roadside bomb and approached to inspect it. The bomb exploded while the soldiers were tacking the situation. Three unit members were killed on the spot. Two others, who were seriously wounded, were evacuated to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister; Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq; and Northern Command Commander Yitzhaq Mordekhay arrived on the site. The chief of staff said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has reacted sharply and rejected the allegation that the red line of the IDF's struggle with terrorists has receded.

[Baraq] Right after the event, our artillery, combat helicopters, and tanks attacked eight Hizballah targets in the villages of Ghanduriyah, Majdal Silm, Qabrikha. A number of people were hurt in these attacks, including several civilians.

I am positive that we are acting rationally and wisely, exploiting the relative advantage of our size and continuing to make use of the security zone for its main purpose—safeguarding our population centers in the north.

[Aviv] Troop debriefing is still in progress. The chief of staff says initial debriefing shows the explosive charge may have been placed some time ago. The facts show plainly that the forces' handling of such situations should be improved, although there is no definite evidence that flawed performance was responsible for this event.

[Baraq] The troops are still being debriefed, because they only got here a few hours ago, after first taking care of the casualties. When the debriefing is completed, we will know what needs to be amended. I have no doubt there will be both operational and technical lessons to be learned, and they will be all implemented to the last throughout the sector, throughout the deployment.

It is painful, but the IDF's raison d'etre is the struggle to ensure that civilians can live peacefully in northern Israel. While we should aspire to minimum casualties among our troops and to maximum damage to the enemy, the IDF regards this struggle as its foremost task, and it will carry it on.

[Aviv] The situation in south Lebanon was calm during the week of Passover. The chief of staff says, however, that Hizballah will continue attempting to place explosive charges.

[Baraq] Hizballah has suffered very harsh blows over the past few weeks. It lost some 10 fighters as a result of IDF activities and suffered blows to its infrastructure over the past month. I believe this is an ongoing struggle, which is

not expected to end tomorrow or next week, and in that struggle, Hizballah is dealt harsh blows from time to time.

[Aviv] UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] and the Lebanese Army manage to foil only a tiny fraction of attempted terrorist attacks. Most of the attempts are thwarted by IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops, says the chief of staff; the latter is preparing for continued struggle in south Lebanon in the near future.

[Baraq] The struggle will be pursued in the coming months, not only in the coming days. Hizballah will continue trying to attack both the SLA and the IDF in the security zone, and we will continue dealing them blows as often as we can.

[Aviv] Replying to a question, Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq says that the terrorists may have chosen this time because of Prime Minister Rabin's imminent departure for Egypt and that escalation on the eve of the Washington peace talks is possible.

[Baraq] We operate against terrorism independently of the political activity, but in the long run, we are not interested in escalating our operations in a way that will cause unnecessary deterioration. On the other hand, we do want to find ways to react to attacks as we did this afternoon [13 April].

[Aviv] Hizballah assumed responsibility for yesterday's attack. Since the beginning of 1993, terrorists have placed 40 explosive charges in southern Lebanon; most were defused, causing no casualties. Recently, Hizballah has been emulated by Palestinian terrorist organizations, including terrorists affiliated with PLO- 'Arafat. The chief of staff says the PLO has never ceased attacking Israel, either in Lebanon or in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. [end recording]

Lubrani on Solution to Lebanon Problem

TA1404084693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Uri Lubrani.

[Lubrani] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] In the traditional circle of events, Hizballah places explosive charges and tries to attack IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops, while the IDF merely responds. Is there no other way? Could the Army not take advance action preventing terrorist attacks on troops?

[Lubrani] I do not know of any other way. You heard the chief of staff; I second his every word. We are waging a continuing struggle against elements who want to disrupt and sabotage the peace process. These problems cannot be solved through military moves. Only one thing can solve them: an accord and security arrangements with Lebanon.

[Zissowitz] Will such arrangements foil the activities of organizations scattered throughout Lebanon?

[Lubrani] That is the goal. The question is how it can be reached, how the Lebanese Government can guarantee that it is capable of carrying this thing through. This is what the whole affair is about. As long as this does not happen, we will have to seek every possible way to deal with terrorism without disrupting the political process.

[Zissowitz] Lebanese Army troops are deployed in the vicinity of the security zone. Have they taken any action to foil attacks on the IDF?

[Lubrani] They make occasional attempts, but there is no chance their attempts will meet our needs. Very slowly and hesitatingly, the Lebanese Army is enforcing its will on areas which used to be off-limits to it, but we do not think this will save the situation for us.

[Zissowitz] Recent reports speak of a rift inside Hizballah, of split Syrian-Iranian loyalties. Does yesterday's event show that Hizballah's strength vis-a-vis the IDF has not diminished despite the rift?

[Lubrani] I must say I know of no rift. I think Hizballah is inspired and instructed by outside elements, probably from Tehran. I know the Syrians are making no effort to either slow down or disrupt their activity, and this is part of the complex situation we have to tackle through negotiations.

[Zissowitz] The explosive charge was placed on an IDF patrol's route, and that proves the terrorists had acquired intelligence about the troops' circuit. Do the terrorists benefit from collaboration with the local population, which makes these operations possible?

[Lubrani] I think one of the things for which we have to be thankful is the fact that over 50 percent of the security zone population is Shiite. I have not heard of a single instance of collaboration between the security zone Shiites and terrorist infiltrators. Terrorists try to infiltrate, of course—and I do not think it is an impossible feat—but as one who has been involved in these affairs for many years, I cannot cite one single case of collaboration that resulted in serious harm to our defense system in the security zone.

[Zissowitz] Do you believe then the operation was carried out without the aid of locals?

[Lubrani] I think collaborators are not needed to hide an explosive charge in an area so close to the border line. As you heard, it was one of 40 bombs placed in the security zone since the beginning of 1993, and since bombs are an almost daily occurrence, I do not think collaboration is responsible.

[Zissowitz] Is there cooperation between Hizballah and Palestinian terrorist organizations operating in this area?

[Lubrani] I assume such cooperation—either continuous or occasional—exists. We witness activities carried out by Palestinian squads with either the knowledge or assistance of Hizballah.

[Zissowitz] Do you expect these attacks to become more frequent as the peace process makes progress?

[Lubrani] This is their objective, and I think we can expect them to pursue or even step up their activities. We should do everything possible to remain on top of the situation while taking care not to tip the delicate balance. Extreme retaliation may cause escalation no one wants.

[Zissowitz] Uri Lubrani, thank you very much.

Beilin on Washington Talks, PLO Negotiations

TA1304160993 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Dan Shilon—live in the studio]

[Text] [Shilon] Mubarak met 'Arafat in Cairo today and will meet Rabin in Ismailia tomorrow. Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin is in our Jerusalem studio. Good evening, sir.

[Beilin] Good evening.

[Shilon] Are the two meetings related?

[Beilin] Obviously both deal with the same issue, which is the talks we hope will start on 20 April among us, the Arab countries, and the Palestinians to pursue—and I hope, also end—the negotiations.

[Shilon] I would like to link the question of 'Arafat and Faysal al-Husayni to what lies in store for us. Based on your views and the stances of your government, would it not be better to speak directly with Yasir 'Arafat rather than with al-Husayni, if he is indeed integrated into the Palestinian delegation?

[Beilin] Unlike the previous government, the current one did not include in its basic guidelines a clause stating that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO. Following exhaustive discussions, Labor deleted the clause stating that Israel will not negotiate with the PLO from its platform at the most recent party convention. Hence, there is no impediment to such talks in principle, not to mention that the law banning meetings with the PLO has been repealed.

[Shilon] So why not call a spade a spade and invite Yasir 'Arafat to Washington next week and talk to the PLO? After all, that is exactly what you are doing.

[Beilin] First of all, this constitutes a very significant change compared to the previous government, which used to play charades but stopped playing games the moment Shamir agreed to confer with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the then deputy chairman of the Palestine National Council. Through that meeting Israel in fact directly—or, if you prefer, indirectly—negotiated with the PLO. I reiterate, in principle, I see no reason not to talk with our enemies. What we are talking about is the Madrid formula, and that is what guides us. In other words, we think it makes no sense today to change the Palestinian representation because opening the Madrid formula could lead us up a long alley of prolonged discussions over procedural issues rather than matters of substance. This is what I perceive as the main reason not to change the formula that was attained before we rose to power.

[Shilon] The level of expectation from the Washington talks seems quite high at the moment. Do you subscribe to it?

[Beilin] Yes, I must admit that I do. I think that after the long interval which was forced on us, all sides feel that if and when the talks resume they will have to be very intensive. We cannot afford to drag them on or to dwell on minutiae because there are too many elements who would like the talks to culminate in failure.

[Shilon] If you share this assessment, could you tell us if on the Syrian issue Israel will utter the magic formula that will enable a peace treaty with Syria which is, according to media reports, a full withdrawal from the entire Golan Heights?

[Beilin] I do not think it is all that simple. Several points remain unclear with regard to Syria. I have spoken to many people, Europeans and others, who visited Syria. They could not tell us what Syria means by peace and could definitely not tell us whether Syria is prepared to conduct a peace process and have a real peace with us independent of the other Arab countries. We can hardly make such sweeping statements before we know what they seriously think.

[Shilon] But, what is it that we want? Will we be willing to utter the magic word in exchange for what we term full and normal peace with Syria?

[Beilin] The question is whether there is a magic word, and I am not sure about it. I think that the moment we uttered the most important words—that is, our willingness to effect a withdrawal in the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Syria—we created a new equation whereby the Syrians are prepared to talk about peace and we are prepared to talk about withdrawal. We cannot, and I think should not, say more than that. What we should do is make a supreme effort to understand what Syria is really prepared to do. If it is prepared to go for a full peace with us, for diplomatic relations, and a peace that does not depend on others I think it will find significant willingness on Israel's part to meet it halfway.

[Shilon] Sir, thank you very much.

On 'Continuous Talks', U.S. Role

TA1404073793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpts] [Zohar] Good morning, Deputy Minister Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Zohar] Is the United States right in believing that Israel will agree to continuous talks?

[Beilin] Not only will it agree, it is very interested in that form. In fact, we proposed that very thing right after the general elections in Israel. We suggested continuous talks, because we have no use for long breaks such as the last one. We want to come to Washington and pursue discussions until white smoke comes out. [passage omitted]

[Dan] Does the Syrian consent to this innovation constitute an achievement?

[Beilin] As far as I am concerned, the achievement lies in the U.S. consent, because they will bear the burden of hosting the talks. [passage omitted]

For me, the fact that on the one hand the Americans speak of continuous negotiations and on the other are promising to be a so-called active partner offers a greater chance of successful negotiations. After all, whether we like it or not, we will not attain peace in the Middle East without some kind of American intervention.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Yosi Beilin.

Soldiers Wound 6 Arabs in Gaza Strip

TA1304185693

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 13 April reports that "six Gazans were wounded today by soldiers' gunfire after a jeep driving through Gaza's main street on patrol came under a hail of stones."

Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 GMT on 13 April reports that "in the Samarian town of Qabatiyah, a soldier was lightly wounded this afternoon in a stone-throwing attack. He was treated on the spot and taken to hospital."

Another report in the same cast notes that "the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court has released on bail the Jewish security officer accused of shooting to death an Arab man in Neve Ya'aqov on Sunday night. The judge ordered him not to leave the country and forbade the publication of his name. The security officer says he shot the Arab because he saw him breaking into a car and then pointing what he thought was a weapon at him."

Government To Lift Closure by 20 Apr

TA1304144693 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 12 Apr 93 p 11

[Text] AL-MANAR confirms that the Israeli Government will lift the closure imposed on the occupied territories before the start of the upcoming round of negotiations on 20 April in Washington. It has been learned from informed sources that the Israeli Government has made a promise to this effect to the U.S. Administration. This promise was one of the Palestinian conditions for participating in the ninth round. Those sources add that key members of the Israeli leadership held a meeting, studied the issue, and decided to lift the closure before the start of the upcoming round of negotiations. Other Israeli leaders proposed that the closure be extended until one week after the start of negotiations.

PLO Said Opposed to al-Husayni Role

TA1404113093 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] PLO-Tunis and Palestinian elements in the territories have informed the Americans that they object to the inclusion of Faysal al-Husayni in the delegation negotiating with Israel. This was learned by our correspondent Yo'el Nir.

Prior to his departure for Ismailia this morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that he does not object to Faysal al-Husayni's inclusion, provided he either changes his address or adds an address outside Jerusalem. Our correspondent reports that Yitzhaq Rabin further said he would tell Egyptian President Husni Mubarak that Israel will return 34 deportees expelled prior to the intifadah and that this will constitute the limit of Israeli gestures he intends to offer the Palestinians.

'Text' of King's Message on Bosnian Muslims

JN1304124393 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 13 Apr 93

["Text" of King Husayn's message to "the kings, presidents, and amirs of the Arab and Islamic countries" on 20 March 1993]

[Text] Under the current difficult and tragic circumstances facing the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, represented by the occupation of most of their land and the hideous crimes committed against them; and in view of the international community's silence over this, I am dutybound to address you concerning the future of this Muslim people, who are being exposed to the most difficult ordeals. I am confident that you have the same feelings of concern and care and I am convinced that you share us our opinion and desire to work together—in light of the available potential—to ease their burdens because this is a duty dictated on us all by our religious, principled, and ethical commitments as well as by our pledges to safeguard world peace and security in accordance with the UN Charter.

I do not have to affirm that the continuous tragedy of Bosnia- Herzegovina constitutes a big challenge to all peace-loving forces and those believing in coexistence. The land of a member state has been occupied, and regrettably, this aggression against this young state is committed by one of its partners in the federal union, which formed former Yugoslavia. Also, the separation did not take place peacefully or through reconciliation among those partners.

The territorial dispute between the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro on the one hand and Bosnia-Herzegovina on the other was accompanied by actions against defenseless people, including children, women, and old men, as well as by racial segregation and genocide against certain sectors. This is not accepted by international laws and ideals.

Unfortunately, the armed dispute among the republics of former Yugoslavia, the genocide, and other criminal acts are taking place against the background of tension in relations between tolerant Islam and the West.

Since Islam is a religion of tolerance, coexistence, and fraternity, the misunderstood, unjustified, and feverish attack on Islamic groups or sites—for political and racial reasons or for historical differences—made some people believe that what is taking place could be part of a plan with broader dimensions through which the hegemonic forces and their allies aim at standing in the face of Islam being a world message with a lofty political, economic, social, and cultural objective.

Israel's declared stand, which calls for strengthening its alliance with the major powers to confront the so-called Islamic fundamentalism, fueled such doubts.

Based on this, action produced reaction that was characterized by anger and sometimes extremism. The way the international efforts were administered has, to some extent, reinforced some sides' fears of the existence of a premeditated intention to weaken Islam and take revenge on Muslims in Bosnia. Despite some appreciated efforts by some regional and international forces to contain the crisis and alleviate the suffering of innocent civilians, moves on the political level lacked firmness and due attention. Neither did they rise to the level of the severity and seriousness of the crisis. Despite this, we have welcomed the steps taken by President Clinton's administration and all other positive and effective efforts and initiatives within the international framework.

The Nonaligned Movement and the Islamic Conference Organization have urged UN action to tackle the tragedy. The UN Security Council's stand was hesitant and nonpersistent. Attention has continued to be focused on the mediation of Mr. Cyrus Vance and David Owen as representatives of two prominent sides; namely, the UN secretary general and the EC. However, their plan has not yet gained the approval of all parties. There is fear that the three parties' efforts would essentially be based on the idea of entrenching the fait accompli. These fears are particularly consolidated by hesitation to implement deterrent measures such as the air and economic embargo which was imposed by the Security Council on one of the parties. Published details of the plan appear to favor the military superiority that has been realized by one side on the ground, making any future political settlement unstable and rendering a wider conflagration a continous possibility.

The exacerbating tragic situation in the Republic of Bosnia- Herzegovina, including the seeds of a wider explosion in the Balkan region, necessitate a deeper and a more serious solution in a way that guarantees the legitimate rights of the people of Bosnia- Herzegovina.

Finally, we are confident that you share us our feelings as well as our concern for the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and for the repercussions of the continuation of their ordeal on world security and stability.

May God's peace and blessing be upon you.

[Signed] Your faithful, sincere brother, Husayn Bin-Talal

[Dated] Amman, 27 Ramadan 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 20 March 1993

Envoy on 'Positive' Meeting With U.S. Officials

JN1404082693 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Apr 93 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Ayman al-Safadi]

[Text] Amman—The United States Tuesday reiterated its commitment to play the role of a full partner in the Arab-Israeli peace process, explaining that such a role

means being an intermediate [as published] and a facilitator to bridge gaps between Arab and Israeli parties to the peace talks, Jordanian ambassador to the U.S. said after three hours of talks with American officials.

Dr. Fayiz al-Tarawinah said that State Department officials anticipated and stressed the need to achieve progess this year in the talks, which have been halted since December when Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon.

During the three-hour meeting, which was held at the invitation of the United States, Jordan reiterated its position that its decision on whether to return to the ninth round of the peace talks would be taken in consultation with other Arab parties to the negotiations.

"Our decision will be part of the Arab decision," Dr. al-Tarawinah told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview Tuesday evening.

Foreign ministers of the Arab parties to the talks are scheduled to hold a coordination meeting in Damascus Friday after Washington talks between U.S. and Syrian, Palestinian and Lebanese delegations.

The Cabinet announced Tuesday that Jordan's delegation to the Damascus parley will be headed by Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir and will include chief negotiator 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and Jordanian Ambassador to Syria Nayif al-Hadid.

Syrian-American talks were scheduled to take place Tuesday, while the Palestinians and Lebanese are expected to meet with State Department officials Wednesday.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said a similar meeting between Israel and the U.S. was expected early next week.

The Palestinian delegation left for Washington Tuesday.

Dr. al-Tarawinah said that during the meeting Jordan also reiterated its insistence that any solution to the Arab-Isreli conflict should be comprehensive and progress should be achieved on all tracks of the negotiations.

Without going into details, Dr. al-Tarawinah said the two sides also discussed difficulties facing the resumption of the negotiations and means of overcoming them as well as issues concerning the Jordanian-Israeli track of the negotiations.

The Jordanian side to the meeting, which Dr. al-Tarawinah described "positive," included the head of Jordan Information Bureau in Washington Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, and member of the Jordanian negotiation team Musa Burayzat. The American side was headed by Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs Edward Djerejian.

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials said that Israel was offering new proposals on self-rule to coax Palestinians back to the peace talks.

REUTER Tuesday quoted unidentified Palestinian sources as saying Israel was offering new gestures to the Palestinians. They said some of the gestures were concrete while others are vague.

According to REUTER, U.S. sources said the new proposals include increased legislative powers for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

"There have been unspecified promises on the issues of legislation, land and the linkage between the stages," Ghassan al- Khatib, a senior member of the Palestinian peace talks delegation, told Reuters in Jerusalem.

For its part Israel was not talking about any proposals.

"We never discuss the substance of the negotiations," insisted Gad Ben-Ari, Prime Minsiter Yitzhaq Rabin's spokesman.

Abu-Jabir Comments on Damascus Meeting

JN1404081993 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 14 Apr 93 p 1

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has said that the Arab foreign ministers, who will meet in Damascus on Friday and Saturday [16-17 Apr], will discuss the results of the Arab contacts held over the past three weeks before making a decision on the resumption of the bilateral talks in Washington on 20 April. In a statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Abu-Jabir said that the discussions will focus on the political situation in the region in general as well as on the peace process and Arab coordination in all fields.

Yesterday, the Council of Ministers agreed on the formation of the Jordanian delegation to the Damascus coordination meeting of the Arab parties involved in the peace process. The delegation, which is chaired by Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, will comprise Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

Talks Group Head on Deportees, Fundamentalism

NC1404074493 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 3 Apr 93 p 11

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks by an unidentified correspondent in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Al-Diyar] How do you view the prospects for the negotiation process, especially when the Palestinians are facing a deadlock over the deportees issue?

[Al-Majali] First, despite its importance, the deportee issue is not greater than the Palestinian issue; it is a provocative act by Israel that must and will be resolved. The Palestinian issue is greater than that of the deportees, and the two issues should not be linked to turn the deportee issue into a major affair. The basic objective is to resolve the Palestinian issue. If it is resolved, the deportee issue will be resolved automatically. Originally, the Security Council was supposed to deal with this issue.

[Al-Diyar] If we agree that as you mentioned, developments are proceeding in the direction of resolving the Palestinian issue, although there are feigned provocative signs such as the deportees issue blocking the solution, how do you explain the situation and how can we imagine that the situation is satisfactory?

[Al-Majali] Whenever obstacles appear, we discuss each one as it arises, as was the case when the deportation took place; we adopted certain stands then and we did the same thing when aggressive acts against Lebanon escalated.

We are convinced that Israeli provocations will continue. They justify the aggression as a response to alleged "aggression" against them. Therefore, such issues should not be included in the negotiations; more clearly, these obstacles should not be a reason to halt the negotiations, since negotiations should continue to resolve these problems. [passage omitted]

[Al-Diyar] Let us move to Jordan, where reports have indicated an expected government reshuffle. Will this be reflected in the negotiating delegation and on Jordan's policy on the negotiations?

[Al-Majali] I do not think so, because Jordan's policy is firm and unchangeable.

[Al-Diyar] Despite concern about the growing fundamentalist movement there?

[Al-Majali] The fundamentalist movement exists but is disciplined and there is no feeling that it might pose a threat to Jordan as an entity. I want to explain something in this regard; the fundamentalist leadership in the Arab world is not the same. The fundamentalist trend in Jordan is different from that in Algeria, which in turn is different from the fundamentalist trend in Egypt and so forth. These fundamentalist trends differ from one country to another. The fundamentalist movement in Jordan is represented in the parliament, although political confrontations occur with it sometimes.

The difference between the Muslim Brotherhood members in Jordan and those in the rest of the Arab countries is that the Jordanian fundamentalists regard Jordan as the land of steadfastness where no sedition should occur. Of course, we do not deny that some among them seek to reach power. However, their theory is based on the principle that Jordan must not be subjected to sedition. They will not a be a tool for sedition, but rather an instrument of pressure concerning domestic policies.

King 'Abdallah [King Husayn's grandfather] sponsored them to confront the communist, then the Nasirist, and Ba'thist upsurge. They know that in Jordan they enjoy freedom and attention unknown in any other Arab country. Therefore, the Jordanian fundamentalists are articulate and visible, and we deal with them with respect and appreciation. The occasional variance in views is not a standard.

Kuwaiti Minister's Remarks to AL-HAYAH Criticized

JN1304102793 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 13 Apr 93 p 1

[Editorial: "A Serious Talk by a Kuwaiti Official..!!"]

[Text] The Kuwaiti foreign minister's statements are not unusual. Had he said something different to the London-based AL- HAYAH newspaper, then this would have been unusual, and we would naively ask: Is it possible that a Kuwaiti official has regained his senses after all Kuwaiti officials have changed their skin, after they deemed their affiliation to the Arab homeland and Arab nation offensive, a burden, and contradictory to all the failure, ingratitude, and lack of nationalism, which now constitute the main element of their characters, and which turned the Emirate of Kuwait into a gas station deprived of any pride, decisionmaking, or sovereignty?

If there is a reason why we should comment on the Kuwaiti minister's statements—the minister whom we and all Arabs know along with his affiliations and practices—it is because of his cheap and exposed attempt to play the role of a big power in the Arabian Gulf. It is also because of his false belief that abundant money, although it is no more abundant, can make a great state. This is exactly as if casinos are more important and respectable than factories, plants, laboratories, and institutes. The Kuwaiti minister in question tried to speak on behalf of our Saudi brothers. He imagines that these brothers are not aware of everything, and that they do not realize the reason for all that has happened over the last three years, and which brought catastrophe to us all as a result of the Kuwaiti officials' practices and their unique courage, illustrated by their running away from the gas station to scores of hotels throughout the world.

Let the Kuwaiti foreign minister say what he likes, and let him say what has been said by other Kuwaiti officials, whose awareness, affiliation, and patriotism are just like his. They are all excused, because they have lost everything. They are haunted by horror, humiliation, and insecurity. This Jordan, its leadership and people, is so great that they are not affected by a coward, a rancorous statement, or a trivial interview. Jordan will always be proud of its nation.

Union Official Warns Against Lifting Israeli Boycott

JN1104102193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0945 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] Amman, 11 Apr (INA)—Fadil Mahmud Gharib, head of the General Federation of Iraqi Trade Unions, has called for more Arab unity based on common objectives. He also urged rebuilding confidence in Arab solidarity.

Delivering a speech at the fifth session of the Arab labor conference currently convening here, Gharib urged quick, serious action to end the suffering of the Iraqi people caused by the unjust economic embargo that has been in place for more than two and a half years.

Gharib said he was sure that the Arab people everywhere feel the suffering of the children, women, and elderly of Iraq as a result of the severe shortages of food and medicine.

He also warned against some Arabs who close the door in the face of any attempt to achieve Arab solidarity and are eager to end the boycott of the Zionist entity, saying those people are determined to annihilate the Iraqi people and are working to divide Iraq, which is an indispensable factor of the Arab nation's pride.

Gharib told the conferees that the glorious Iraqis have managed to reconstruct what was destroyed by the villains. He also noted that Iraq has embarked on comprehensive development plans with very promising prospects. Enemies as well as friends have acknowledged this.

He noted that the slogan "Damn the Impossible" upheld in the aftermath of the immortal Mother of Battles has had brilliant manifestations in the skies of Iraq. Iraq has survived several ordeals, thanks to its strong resolve and deep faith, he said.

'Source' on Joint Military Maneuvers With U.S

JN1204104393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] A well-informed Jordanian source today disclosed that Jordanian-American naval maneuvers were conducted in territorial waters in the Red Sea last week. Meanwhile, Jordanian-American ground maneuvers began in southern Jordan today.

New Islamic Party Includes Muslims, Christians, Women

JN1304080293 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Apr 93 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sa'idah Kilani]

[Text] Amman—The Islamic movement, Du'a', was licensed Monday becoming the first Islamic party to include women and Christians in its temporary executive committee.

Members of the Arab Democratic Islamic Movement (ADIM), Du'a' told the Jordan Times that the movement is aimed mainly at reinforcing the relationship between Muslims and Christians.

The ADIM's 72 founders include 12 Christians and 11 women, out of which two women and two Christians are members in the movement's temporary executive committee.

"We aim at forming a national, Islamic front with progressive concepts that would implement the Islamic Sharia (Islamic law) in a modern manner," said Marwan Sudah, a Christian member of the ADIM executive committee.

Mr. Sudah, who criticised present Islamic movements which adopt regressive methods of analysis of the Holy Book (Koran), indicated that the movement's principles are intermingled with the Arabism- Islamism dimension and is based on the democracy and Shura principles.

It adopts the Islamic economic system "since we consider it as the best system to be implemented," he added.

Over three years, since the founding members of ADIM decided to form such a party with progressive Islamic thinking, the party's members told the Jordan Times that the Muslim Brotherhood was distributing brochures in which it criticised their principles and objectives.

He said that the attacks occured more often recently, but refused to elaborate.

"We have close relationships and even cooperation with leftists, nationalists and democratic parties," said Muhammad Abu-Ajamiyah, ADIM's secretary, "while our relationship with the Islamists is characterised by ideological enmity."

ADIM will hold its first national conference next year and expects to attract more than 1,000 members to its ranks.

Three Killed, 2 Injured in Security Zone

TA1304180393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Here is a report just in: Three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed today when a roadside bomb exploded in the security zone in south Lebanon. The families of the victims have been notified. Another two soldiers were injured and evacuated to Rambam Hospital in Haifa. One is in serious condition while the other is in moderate condition. Our army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik reports from the northern border:

The IDF spokesman's announcement, which has just been released, states that three IDF soldiers were killed and two injured in a bomb explosion while they were on a foot patrol in the central sector of the security zone in south Lebanon. The names of the victims are: Captain El'ad Ben-David from Ashqelon, Lieutenant Moshe Bari from Rehovot, and Staff Sergeant Peter Rappaport from Beersheba. Two other soldiers on the patrol were seriously wounded, and after being initially treated on the scene by a doctor who was with the force they were evacuated aboard a helicopter to Rambam Hospital in Haifa.

The clash occurred shortly before 1100 this morning, when a unit of the Paratroopers Brigade was on an operational mission near the village of al-Qantarah, several kilometers west of Metulla in the central sector of the security zone in the south Lebanon. The soldiers detected a roadside bomb, which exploded.

Further on Helicopter Raids

NC1304145493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1420 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Israeli helicopters raided Hizballah positions this afternoon. The helicopters fired several missiles at Wadi al-Saluqi, which had been used as a staging point by fighters to infiltrate the security belt. According to a security source in Tyre, the raids targeted houses in Qabrikha and Majdal Silm used by Hizballah members. UN sources have told our security correspondent that Israeli Cobra helicopters this afternoon raided al-Ghanduriyah and Majdal Slim and houses located between Wadi Shaqra and Majdal Slim. The sources said that five people were wounded by air-to-surface missiles fired by the Israeli helicopters. Our correspondent added that Majdal Slim, Wadi al-Saluqi, and Qabrikha still are being subjected to intermittent Israeli 155-mm shell fire from positions in Arnun and Yuhmur.

Intermittent Bombardment

NC1304172193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Excerpt] According to the latest security reports arriving from the south this evening, a state of severe tension and alert prevails for fear of renewed military operations. We have been told that the Israeli bombardment of the Wadi al- Saluqi area became intermittent at 1820. Meanwhile, Majdal Silm is being subjected to sporadic large-caliber weapons fire from the Tallusah hills, where the Israeli troops are stationed.

A new air raid was recorded around 1715, when two Israeli helicopters fired two rockets at a home in Qabrikha. Previous reports said Israeli Cobra helicopters raided the villages of al-Ghanduriyah and Majdal Silm and homes located between Wadi Shaqra and Majdal Silm two hours earlier. The Cobras fired 13 rockets. Meanwhile, the resistance fired rockets and large-caliber machine guns at the raiding Cobras. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Reports Operation

NC1404073093 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has announced in a statement that one of its groups detonated an explosive device against an enemy patrol while it was passing along the al-Tayyibah-al-Qantarah road in the central sector. A Merkava tank was completely destroyed, three soldiers who were inside the tank were killed, and a number of others were wounded. Immediately afterward, the enemy helicopters overflew the scene of the operation in an attempt to transfer the dead and wounded from the area. The statement added: A few hours after the operation and while an enemy foot patrol was heading for the same region, one of the resistance groups pounced on it. A violent clash ensued, leaving more casualties in the ranks of the occupation troops.

[In another item within the 0530 GMT newscast, Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic reports: "The villages of Majdal Silm, Wadi al-Saluqi, and Qabrikha came under bombardment from the Zionist 155-mm artillery emplacements stationed in Arnun and Yuhmur last night. Zionist helicopters raided the homes of citizens in Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, and al-Ghanduriayh several times last night, wounding five civilians and damaging some houses. Our correspondent in al-Nabatiyah reports that villages in the central sector, particularly Qabrikha, Bra'shit, and Wadi al-Saluqi, were the target of hundreds of large-caliber shells fired from the enemy positions, causing more destruction and property damage. A source in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon has reported that the Zionist troops heavily bombarded the villages adjacent to the occupied border zone, adding that 200 shells fell on the villages. Security sources have reported that Islamic Resistance fighters responded to these acts of aggression by shelling the enemy positions with mortars and Katyushas, scoring direct hits."]

'Lethal' Blow to Hizballah Urged

NC1404074293 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] A responsible security source has told our military correspondent that Hizballah and those behind it staged

acts of sabotage yesterday to increase tension in south Lebanon with the aim of harming the peace talks that are scheduled to resume in Washington.

The responsible source said that retaliation for these acts was swift and that the houses of Ibrahim Hijazi, 'Ali Musa Hijazi, and the Fahs family in Qabrikha; Nasir 'Ala'-al-Din, Nasir Matlab Yasin, and 'Ali Wahib Yasin in Majdal Silm; and Husayn Hammud, Ghassan Nadir, and the well-known Hizballah activist brothers 'Abbas and Husayn Quduh in al-Ghanduriyah were shelled.

The source went on to say that the staging of acts of sabotage from amid peaceful citizens who are exploited by Hizballah as a human shield has only resulted in endangering the peaceful citizen, his house, and his family. The source stressed that Hizballah's positions are purely military targets.

The responsible security source added that he appeals to the Lebanese authorities not to dither in dealing a real and lethal blow to Hizballah's military force so as to deprive those behind this organization of the ability to damage the peace process once and for all.

UNIFIL Helicopter Comes Under Fire

NC1404053493 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] REUTER has reported that a Ghanaian soldier from the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] sustained a head injury when a UN helicopter came under fire by gunmen in the village of Qabrikha.

UNIFIL Patrol Attacked 12 Apr

NC1304122093 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] A UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] patrol came under attack from machine-gun fire in the Kafra and Yatar areas near the border strip yesterday. A UNIFIL source said one of its armored vehicles was hit by 30 bullets but there were no casualties. This was the fourth such incident in 10 days.

Al-Hariri Arrives in Damascus, Meets al-Asad

NC1404112193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri left for Damascus this morning for talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

A report just in says that President al-Asad received al-Hariri at 1300 today and that the meeting is still not over.

Al-Hariri met on arrival in Damascus with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam.

Romanian President, Delegation on Official Visit

Iliescu Arrives

AU1304192293 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1834 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Beirut ROMPRES, 13/4/1993—Romanian President Ion Iliescu left Damascus Tuesday, April 13, heading for Beirut after a 24-hour visit during which he had two interviews with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Ion Iliescu arrived Tuesday, April 13 in Beirut where he had an interview with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi, to discuss mainly bilateral relations and matters related to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.

President Iliescu is also to meet with Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and other high Lebanese officials.

In Damascus President Iliescu told a press conference that to restore peace in the Middle East it was necessary that Israel recognize the rights of the Palestinians. "Disregarding the Palestinian people's legitimate rights will make it difficult—if not impossible—to reach a peaceful settlement" the chief of the Romanian state said.

President Iliescu assessed his talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad as "fruitful." He said two agreements for economic and trade cooperation between Romania and Syria had been signed.

Welcomed by Al-Hirawi

NC1404062093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Romanian President Ion Iliescu arrived at Beirut Airport at 1700 today from Damascus aboard a special Romanian plane for an official six-hour visit during which he will meet President al- Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri.

Receiving him at the airport were Deputy Prime Minister Michel al-Murr, representing the president, the Lebanese ambassador to Romania, the Romanian ambassador to Lebanon, and the governor of Jabal Lubnan.

After the official ceremonies, President Iliescu, accompanied by Minister al-Murr, left for the temporary presidential office, where he held a round of talks with President al-Hirawi. The Romanian leader's talks in Beirut will deal with promoting bilateral relations, regional political developments, and the forthcoming peace talks. The Lebanese side is expected to raise the conditions of the Lebanese community in Romania, which was recently harassed.

President al-Hirawi welcomed President Iliescu at the temporary presidential office, saying:

[Begin recording] [al-Hirawi] We welcome his excellency the Romanian president. I regret that I must receive him

in the temporary presidential office, but the war imposed on Lebanon has caused destruction, including that of the presidential office. Anyway, the Lebanese Presidency's reception of the Romanian president takes place in Lebanon and on Lebanese soil. I thank him for his visit, brief as it is. I regard it as a generous initiative by him, because he understood what happened in Lebanon and now comes to extend congratulations on the peace march.

As he saw the prevailing security, he said he also saw the destruction in Lebanon.

Our relations with Romania are excellent. They were excellent under the previous regime and ought to remain so now that democracy is the only political authority in Lebanon. Even during the war, Lebanon did not hesitate to maintain its diplomatic ties with Romania; the embassy in Bucharest was open and the ambassador was there. The situation was the same in Beirut.

He was asked about Lebanese nationals in Romania; the Lebanese state has around 6 million Lebanese spread throughout the five continents. We wish to say to all Lebanese wherever they are that they should respect the laws and regulations of the country in which they live. We also want them to be good citizens in their host countries. If there are violations of customs or in other areas, the law is applied to everyone, he said. At the same time, I ask his excellency to instruct his government to extend to those Lebanese who want to go to Romania on vacation or to work, the same facilities extended to others.

I ask his excellency the Romanian president now that he has told me Romania has asked to join the EC, that Romania should make its voice heard in the EC in Lebanon's interest, especially in the interest of Security Council resolutions to liberate Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied Arab land. This will support our peace efforts. We want our south and Western al-Biqa' to be liberated from the Israeli occupation.

I renew my thanks and welcome to the Romanian president for his visit—although it is short—and hope the outcome will serve both countries. I hope the highest-level visits will be exchanged.

[Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency, is it true that you will discuss the Puma helicopter issue with the Romanian president.

[Al-Hirawi] The Romanian side has nothing to do with the Puma deal. A parliamentary committee is in charge of this issue, which concerns France and Lebanon. The place of manufacture of these aircraft does not concern me. [end recording]

The Romanian president is accompanied by a high-level delegation of Florin Georgescu, deputy prime minister and finance minister; Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister Georghe Tinka; the ministers of trade and industry; the Romanian Central Bank's first deputy governor; and several advisers and experts.

Talks Conclude, Iliescu Departs

NC1404063193 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The Lebanese-Romanian summit concluded last night with both sides emphasizing the bonds of friendship between the two countries. President Ilyas al-Hirawi hosted a banquet at the Bristol Hotel in honor of his Romanian guest President Ion Iliescu, who left Beirut for home aboard a private plane last night.

Following his departure, the Romanian president cabled President al-Hirawi to express his thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality he was accorded. He spoke of the need to consolidate bilateral ties to promote the welfare and progress of the two peoples. In an earlier statement, the Romanian president expressed his country's readiness to help rebuild Lebanon and consolidate its stability and sovereignty. He said the new circumstances in Romania are more favorable for promoting relations between the two countries.

After meeting President Iliescu, President al-Hirawi said Lebanese-Romanian relations are as good as can be. He called on Lebanese expatriates to respect the laws of the countries in which they live.

The Romanian president also met Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who, along with other senior officials, attended the banquet.

'Important' Meeting With Djerejian Noted

JN1304185593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Following his meeting this evening with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, said the meeting was important, since it is the first time that prior consultations have been held with the U.S. sponsor on substantive issues.

Al-'Allaf added that the deportee question was not the only obstacle, noting that the question has to do with Israel's position toward full implementation of international resolutions.

Al-'Allaf maintained that substantial results can be achieved during the ninth round, if it is held, and that Israel should declare its readiness for full withdrawal in exchange for full peace, as Syria has done.

Further on Visit of Romanian President, Delegation

Talks Resume 13 Apr

JN1304133893 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad and Romanian President Ion Iliescu resumed their talks at the People's Palace this morning. [passage omitted]

During their meeting, the two presidents completed discussion of the topics they dealt with during their closed meetings yesterday. These talks centered on the overall international situation, developments in the international arena, the situation in the Arab region, and relations between Syria and Romania. [passage omitted]

News Agencies Sign Agreement

JN1304155693 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 13 Apr (SANA)—The SYRIAN ARAB NEWS AGENCY and the Romanian national news agency today signed an agreement on cooperation and the exchange of news. The agreement stipulates free and continuous exchange of news between the two agencies.

The agreement was signed for the Syrian Arab side by Dr. Fayiz al-Sa'igh, director general of SANA, and for the Romanian side by Nyagu Udruyu [name as received], director general of the Romanian news agency.

The agreement stipulates the exchange of news, studies, documentary and archive material, and photographs, as well as encouraging the work of permanent and temporary reporters from both countries by offering them every available facility to enable them to perform their mission successfully.

The agreement also allows journalists to exchange expertise and visits to acquaint themselves with the achievements of both countries in various fields.

Dr. al-Sa'igh and Udruyu exchanged cordial speeches expressing their happiness over signing the agreement, which falls within the framework of the Romanian president's visit to Syria and his talks with President Hafiz al-Asad.

The two officials stressed that the agreement constitutes an important achievement for promoting friendship, and that both sides are eager to implement all its provisions.

Iliescu Comments on Talks

JN1404100193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0740 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 14 Apr (SANA)—Romanian President Ion Iliescu has praised the Syrian stand on the peace process and expressed his appreciation for the constructive and effective role played by Syria in the peace process and in giving momentum to the peace talks. In a statement to TISHRIN newspaper published today, President Iliescu said that in order to achieve security and peace the interests and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people should be taken into consideration. He stressed that all parties have a real interest in finding peaceful solutions to all current problems through talks and have no interest in kindling the atmosphere of war and tension. Iliescu also expressed hope that solutions will be found and a just and fair settlement will be achieved.

With regard to Syrian-Romanian relations, President Iliescu said: We have every reason to be optimistic regarding the continuous future development of these relations in all fields.

Iliescu described his talks in Syria as productive, adding that they dealt with ways to develop industrial and agricultural relations. He said: The dialogue with President Hafiz al-Asad was constructive and productive, and dealt with the current issues of concern to both countries as well as international issues.

President Iliescu stressed the existence of common ground and desire for cooperation and for activating the roles of Syria and Romania because the two countries constitute centers for achieving peace and stability in both the Middle East and Romania.

Iliescu Holds News Conference; Departs

JN1304171993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Romanian President Ion Iliescu left Damascus at 1600 today after concluding a two-day visit to Syria. [passage omitted]

The Romanian president held a news conference at Tishrin Palace this afternoon. He praised Syrian-Romanian relations and the two countries' political and

economic cooperation. He said that during his visit to Syria, he saw an honest friend of Romania in the person of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. He added that this human, personal relationship between himself and his excellency the president is an additional positive element in efforts to bolster relations between Syria and Romania. He said: We held a fruitful dialogue with President Hafiz al-Asad on current international issues. We noticed that there was agreement in both countries' positions, particularly on the need to support stability in the regions where we live and to cooperate in the international arena to find proper solutions for mankind.

The Romanian president affirmed that this fact gives us confidence in our future bilateral cooperation and relations in the international arena. He said: Through this visit, we wanted to stress our eagerness and our political will to promote, support, and expand relations between our two countries in all areas. He added: We have come here to discuss ways of reviving the economic relations between Romania and Syria in light of the new circumstances prevailing in Romania. He also said: We discussed the possibility of economic cooperation in areas of common interest, and our two countries epitomized this by signing agreements this morning.

The Romanian president asserted that his country attaches special importance to its ties with Syria based on the traditional, old relations between the two countries and on their mutual confidence in one another. He also expressed his appreciation for Syria's constructive and effective role, as well as its efforts to advance the Middle East peace process. He then expressed hope that the peace process will resume, pointing out that the deportee issue has suspended this process and erected obstacles in its path. The Romanian president stressed that ignoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights will make it difficult, or even impossible, to achieve peace.

Asked about his current tour of the region, the Romanian president said that the Arabs and the Romanians have waged the same prolonged battles to defend themselves, their national identity, their personal dignity, and the interests of their peoples, who are exerting perpetual efforts to meet the needs of contemporary life. He added: Traditional relations between Romania and the Arab world give us reason for optimism, as there is a solid base for bolstering understanding, rapprochement, and cooperation in many areas. We also noticed that we have a joint vision of all contemporary international issues and that there is mutual interest in enhancing international cooperation in the interest of all peoples.

Regarding the economic situation in Romania, the Romanian president said: The Romanian economy is passing through a transitional period, pointing to the growing number of private and joint companies in the country, including approximately 2,000 companies in which Syrian citizens are partners.

In another development, the Syrian and Romanian Governments signed a trade agreement in Damascus today. It was signed for Syria by Dr. Muhammad al-'Imadi, minister of economy and foreign trade, and for the Romanian side by Trade Minister Constantin Teculescu. The agreement replaces a long-term agreement signed by Syria and Romania in 1974. The agreement focuses on developments in the economic infrastructure of both countries to promote, coordinate, and expand trade between the two sides. It also stipulates that each state give the other the most favored status in relations.

Vice President Leaves for DPRK 13 Apr

JN1304174193 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 gmt 13 Apr 93

[Text] Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and deputy leader of the National Progressive Front [NPF], left Damascus for Pyongyang this morning at the head of a delegation of the NPF's Central Command on a visit to the DPRK to take part in celebrations marking Kim Il-song's birthday.

During the visit, the vice president will sign a cooperation agreement between the NPF and the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland of the DPRK.

Press on 9th Round of Talks, Damascus Meeting

JN1404085793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Press review]

[Text] Press commentaries address the peace process and Israeli obstacles which have precluded progress in the peace talks.

The newspaper TISHRIN says: In the welcoming speech delivered at the dinner banquet hosted in honor of Romanian President Ion Iliescu, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed Syria's concern for rendering the Middle East peace process a success on the basis of the terms of reference and principles agreed upon for the Madrid conference. This confirmation comes on the eve of the meetings due to be held in Damascus by the foreign ministers of the Arab sides concerned with the peace process to make a final decision on participation in the ninth round of talks.

TISHRIN adds: Arab participation in this round of talks could have been taken for granted. However, Israeli rulers, since the convocation of the Madrid conference, have been creating obstacles and difficulties in a bid to evade the requirements of the peace process so as to eventually thwart it. Recently, they have adopted certain provocative measures, such as the deportation of hundreds of Palestinians to southern Lebanon and ordering an escalation of acts of repression and oppression in the occupied Arab territories. This has caused the Arabs to raise legitimate questions over Israeli plans, and has

presented the new U.S. administration with a series of fresh obstacles that must be settled and surmounted if the proper climate for the peace talks is to be created.

The paper goes on to say: These Israeli practices, which are in violation of the Security Council resolutions and international conventions, have put the United States in an embarrassing situation, given that these practices are bound to impact on the U.S. role and its credibility in the Middle East region. Human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories have prompted U.S. President Clinton to pronounce that there can be no settlement in the Middle East unless the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people are addressed. Given this tragic state of affairs, it is only natural for the Arabs to inquire from Washington about the full partner role it pledged to play, and to ask how this role will be translated into acts and deeds on the ground.

Concluding its commentary, TISHRIN says: The Arabs are advocates of true peace. As for Syria, it has opened the doors of peace, which were closed by Israeli rulers before [former] President Bush and his Secretary of State Baker. Syria will always be at the forefront of the parties which are eager to achieve a true and durable peace in the Middle East.

The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The meeting scheduled to be held by the foreign ministers of the Arab sides directly concerned with the peace talks is of crucial importance in view of the consultations and contacts currently under way over the resumption of the Washington peace talks. This is because this meeting, which will be held the day after tomorrow, Friday, will adopt an appropriate decision on the issue. The Arab sides have been and will always remain eager to resume the peace talks, because they are deeply convinced of the need to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH adds: Since the start of the Madrid conference in the fall of 1991 up to date, the world community has realized that the Arabs are making serious efforts to render the peace process a success. The world community has also reached the conclusion that the Israeli stance is behind the failure to make progress in the peace talks. For, while speaking of peace, Israel is doing everything to prevent the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace. It has consistently underscored marginal issues and refused to discuss substance.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Given the U.S. administration's pronouncements regarding its intention to play the role of a full partner in the upcoming peace talks, one can say that the attainment of some progress toward a comprehensive settlement is possible if Washington plays an unbiased and honest role in these talks and demonstrates a willingness to uphold the principle of trading territory for peace.

Concluding its commentary, AL-BA'TH says: The Arabs have done all that they can to make peace efforts succeed in the hope that Israel will express a willingness to honor international resolutions. Had it not been for U.S. support, Israel would not have managed to rebel against international legitimacy.

As for the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, it says: Now that the date set for the resumption of the ninth round of the peace talks in Washington is drawing nearer, it must be emphasized that the Arabs do not view the negotiations as an end in itself. Indeed, the negotiations must be viewed as a means for producing an honest endeavor to establish just peace based on the content of the U.S. peace initiative, which provides for exchanging territory for peace, and creating the mechanism that would ensure the implementation of UN resolutions and the restoration of Arab territory and rights to their rightful owners.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The failure to make any progress in the peace process can be attributed to the highly intransigent Israeli rulers' course, which is bent on killing all peace opportunities and legitimizing all their illegal gains. The reiteration of our commitment to just peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the Security Council should in no way mean that Israel can impose its conditions on us. For, any peace that falls short of achieving a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and fails to ensure the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people is deemed unacceptable. We will continue to oppose such peace forever.

Concluding its commentary, AL-THAWRAH says: Thanks to adherence to its pan-Arab constants, Syria, which which has never acted single-handedly, will never do so at present or in the future. Also, Syria will never bargain over rights. Others, the cosponsors of the peace process, and the United States in particular must be aware of this fact.

Afghanistan

Attacks Intensify in Kabul Despite Cease-Fire

LD1304104293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Reports received from Kabul indicate that after a week of calm the residential areas in the city's western districts have come under light and heavy weapon fire during the past three days. According to a report of the IRIB correspondent dispatched to Kabul, as a result of these attacks at least 30 innocent women and children were killed and dozens were injured. The roar of artillery fire, relatively silenced for a fortnight in the wake of a cease-fire agreement signed between the Islamic Unity Party and the Supervisory Council, is once again intensified in the Kabul city and particularly in the western and southern districts. The roar of gunfire is worst at dusk and dawn every day.

An informed political source in Kabul said that the objective of those responsible for the artillery attack is to create insecurity in the western and southern districts of Kabul and to prevent the establishment of peace in the capital of Afghanistan.

There were also rumors on the involvement of Islamic Unity Party and Supervisory Council forces in the recent clashes. But these rumors were rejected by the sources affiliated to the two parties. Another source affiliated to Afghanistan's president stated that last night several mortars hit the presidential palace grounds which did not leave any casualties. It is not yet clear as to which warring faction or party used mortar launchers to fire on the presidential palace. It seems the responsible side is afraid of being recognized by the people of Kabul, but at the same time some suspicious elements palace. It seems the responsible side is afraid of being recognised intend to prevent establishment of peace in Kabul.

Rocket Attacks Hit Residential Areas

LD1304151993 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] A total of 77 rockets have hit Kabul since last night. A responsible security source told a BIA military correspondent that last night's and today's rockets, fired from westerly and southwesterly directions, landed in Wards 2, 4, 9, and 11 of Kabul, where a number of our compatriots were injured and martyred. The injured were quickly taken to hospitals and are being treated. The source added that the rocket attack on Kabul's residential areas happens at a time when our faithful people are looking forward to the implementation of the Islamabad Accord and are waiting for a complete peace. However, some warmongering groups have resorted to adventurism without informing the responsible authorities and are trying to obstruct implementation of the accord.

Fighting Continues; Heavy Losses

LD1404104693 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0830 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Excerpt] A Radio Message of Freedom correspondent reported from Kabul city that new clashes have taken place as a result of repeated offensives mounted by armed forces of the Supervisory Council and the Islamic Union Party against the positions of the Islamic Unity Party. During the clashes both sides have used heavy weapons. Heavy loss of life and material have been inflicted on the defenseless people of Kabul. [passage omitted]

Commentary Urges Leaders To End Differences

LD1304111893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1000 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] After three weeks of calm, Kabul has again witnessed several missile attacks. This is contrary to the [fact] that Afghan political groups signed a cease-fire agreement in Islamabad last March and that presently an Islamic Conference Organization delegation is in Kabul to supervise the cease-fire and the proper execution of the agreement.

The cause of the missile attacks seems to be the failure of Rabbani and Hekmatyar to reach a comprehensive solution. Afghanistan's elected Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar has differences with Borhanoddin Rabbani over the means of electing cabinet members. Hekmatyar believes he has the right to elect cabinet members while Rabbani believes he can approve or veto their election. This difference was initially limited to a diplomatic and political struggle but it has now changed form. Differences started after the several-months-old Kabul clashes between the Islamic Society of Afghanistan led by Rabbani and the Islamic Party of Afghanistan led by Hekmatyar came to an end through the mediation of neighboring countries. [passage omitted]

Presently Afghanistan's political leaders face a vital crossroad to either chose peace and stability or a war whose victor is not clear. Political analysts believe that continuation of talks is the most suitable means of solving the current differences.

India

Interparliamentary Union Conference Opens 12 Apr

President Addresses Opening

BK1204102193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The six-day interparliamentary conference has opened in New Delhi with a call by the president, Dr.

Shankar Dayal Sharma, to eliminate the problem of international terrorism. Inaugurating the 89th conference in the Central Hall of Parliament this morning, he told world parliamentarians that terrorism, particularly [terrorism] sponsored from outside by another state, is a grave threat to the cause of democracy. It cannot be viewed merely as an isolated problem without larger ramifications. He said the deaths of innocent people, and destruction wrought by such elements, is a loss suffered by all. Therefore, all must identify, condemn, and eliminate terrorists threatening the very future of human civilization.

Emphasizing the importance of human rights, Dr. Sharma said that a stable and progressive society can be built only when human rights are recognized and enforced. Experience shows that political systems which denied human rights have failed. The conference, he said, should provide a clear focus on the cause of democracy itself and the dangers faced by it. Dr. Sharma cautioned against elements which attempt to use the basic attributes of the democratic state to destroy its prospects and cause havoc and ruin.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, in his address said that the quest for peace must be a shared concern of all nations. Reiterating the importance of interdependence, he said that we cannot go wrong if peaceful coexistence is a watch word. Voicing his concern over the use of violence to achieve political ends, Mr. Rao called for urgent practical actions and a holistic approach to deal with common problems faced by the people. Mr. Rao declared that adherence to democratic principle is beyond question and parliamentary proceedings should be relevant to the life of people.

The vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, said the advocacy of a two-tier democracy—one for the developed and the other for the developing nations—is a dangerous theory. Highlighting the importance of economic and social justice, he said fulfilling such aspirations of the people will strengthen the democratic set up.

The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, told the delegates that global issues transcend national boundaries and therefore parliamentarians must make concerted efforts, as such issues affect mankind at large. He said terrorism has become a bane of modern society and there are challenges—social, political, economic, and enviornmental—common to all. The choice before humankind is coexistence or coextinction. He said the mainstay of the emerging new world order should be consultation and cooperation rather than confrontation and tension.

The president of the Interparliamentary Council (Sir Michael Marshal) referred to the newly independent countries in Europe which are still finding difficulties in their path of democracy. He said the agenda of the conference, transparency in arms transfers through a global register and implementation of educational and cultural policies to foster democratic values have great relevance in today's world situation.

The representative of the UN secretary general also spoke on the occasion. The president released a book, Triumph of Democracy, and a special issue of The Journal of Parliamentary Information. He also presented the Interparliamentary Union [IPU] award posthumously to Dr. G.S. Dhillon. Mrs. R.K. Dhillon received the award. Dr. Dhillon was the first Asian elected as the President of the IPU during the 1973-76 term.

Iran Hostile Toward Algeria

LD1204205293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] The Inter-parliamentary Union, currently convening in New Delhi, today confirmed the application of the Algerian National Consultative Council as a member of the union with full rights. This was done at the recommendation of the executive committee of the union and with the full support of the Arab and African parliamentary unions and the absolute support of European, Latin American, and Asian parliaments. The National Consultative Council was accepted by a 106-17 vote.

While the Algerian council was taking its place within this international body, Iran demonstrated its hostility to this international stance, thus confirming its hostility to the democratic process in Algeria.

Iraqi Attempts Attack on Kuwaiti

LD1204200993 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Ahmed 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun was the target of an attempted physical attack by members of the so- called Iraqi National Council taking part in the 89th international parliamentary conference that began in New Delhi today.

The leader of that delegation tried to personally attack the National Assembly speaker, who was addressing the coordinating meeting that took place before the conference general meeting opened.

Members of the Iraqi regime's delegation tried on several occasions to interrupt Ahmed 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun's speech, in which he stressed the Baghdad regime's repeated violations against Kuwait's border with Iraq, and the Baghdad regime's noncompliance with UN Security Council Resolutions 686 and 687, whose stipulations include the release of the Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages being detained in Iraqi prisons.

When the National Assembly speaker began to chronicle the irrefutable evidence regarding the Iraqi regime's hostility toward Kuwait, the leader of Baghdad regime delegation tried to physically attack him in an impudent way, especially when the Iraqis failed to convince the

Arab group to endorse an amendment pertaining to the lifting of the economic sanctions against the Iraqi regime.

Several parliamentarians and members from the secretariat of the Kuwaiti parliamentary delegation confronted the leader of the Iraqi regime and prevented him from getting closer to the speaker of National Assembly.

The Arab delegations taking part in the meeting were enraged and condemned the behavior by the Iraqi regime's delegation.

Iraqi 'Tirade' Against U.S.

BK1304160093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1102 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] New Delhi, April 13 (AFP)—An Iraqi MP accused the United States and its allies Tuesday of using biological weapons during the Gulf war. The allegations startled the chairman of a global conference of MPs who hurriedly tried to stem the outburst, reminding the Iraqi speaker that delegates were discussing a global arms register. But Muna Hamuda, a representative of Iraq's ruling Ba'th party, said she would rather speak out on "war crimes of the gravest order" than the subject at hand.

"The use of certain chemical weapons and environmental pollutants was in violation of Geneva conventions on chemical weapons," Hamuda said, overriding objections from conference chairman Shivraj Patil.

"We now have irrefutable evidence that biologically toxic weapons were used against us during the Gulf War. The micro-toxic symptoms produced could not be related to the effects of conventional weapons," she said. Her emotional speech took delegates from the United States and other Western countries by surprise.

The United States has categorically denied repeated Iraqi allegations that biological or chemical weapons were used by the U.S.-led coalition which pushed Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in February 1991.

"These poisonous pollutants led to thousands of deaths and killed 50,000 children less than eight months of age in 1990-1991," Hamuda charged. "The war was to destroy Iraq's economic and military infrastructure. But I ask you why were chemical and environmental pollutants used?" Hamuda said.

The Iraqi delegate said the U.S.-led economic blockade of Iraq in line with U.N. resolutions was leading to more deaths in Iraq.

"I appeal to you for your support to urge the civilised countries to end this inhuman bloackade and help my people live," Hamuda said.

Kuwaiti MPs, who were involved in a scuffle with Iraqi delegates on Monday, kept quiet during her tirade. But when their turn came to speak they lashed out at Iraq for ignoring U.N. resolutions on the return of prisoners of war and destruction of chemical weapons.

Iraq is one of the more than 100 countries which has sent MPs to attend the conference here organised by the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Commentary Views SAARC Conference Results

BK1304121193 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Commentary by Hariharswarup of the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA]

[Text] The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation [SAARC] has at long last got economic (?teeth) and entered a new phase of economic cooperation in South Asia. Hopefully, in future, there will be liberalized intraregional trade and an action plan for poverty alleviation. This is the meaning of the South Asian Preferential [Trade] Agreement [SAPTA] adopted at the just-concluded SAARC summit at Dhaka. Incidentally, the agreement, whose abbreviation has come to be known as SAPTA is vindication of India's consistent stand pleading for special measures for economic cooperation among the member countries since the birth of SAARC in 1985.

In the beginning, India's was the lone voice as other member countries had reservations over such cooperation. The fear was that their markets would be flooded by Indian goods. Soon, leaders of SAARC countries realized that the misgivings were founded on wrong premise. Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were the first to fall in line with India's thinking and others followed suit. The result was reaffirmation by seven SAARC countries of the need to liberalize trade as freely as possible through step-by-step approach. Pakistan, which had reservations all along, gave up its rigid posture. The overwhelming sentiments in favor of preferential trade prevailed and compelled Pakistan to give up its reservations. It was indeed a breakthrough. The proposed agreement is not ambitious but is significant as the starting point of a process that ought to have begun long ago. Besides self interest, what influenced the judgment of the SAARC nations, barring Pakistan, was the advance made in other regions in economic cooperation and the handsome dividends earned by them. They had also before them the European Community and ASEAN.

The 15-page declaration approved by India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives expressed grave concern over growing threat of terrorism in South Asia. It stressed the need for further enhancing cooperation for a coordinated action to tackle the problem. But the ground realities were much different. The United States and other countries of the world have been convinced of Pakistan's complicity in acts of terrorism on the Indian soil and so were SAARC leaders.

For obvious reason, the various facets of SAARC itself, the relations between the two countries touched a new low in the wake of traumatic blasts in Bombay in which hand of Pakistan's notorious ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence] is suspected. In this context, Prime Minister P.V.

Narasimha Rao's 30-minute meeting with his Pakistani Counterpart Nawaz Sharif at Dhaka assumes significance. The meeting took place at the initiative of Pakistan. Mr. Rao categorically told the Pakistan prime minister that India would not hold any further parleys with Islamabad until it tracks down and deport members of the Memon family, main suspects in the Bombay blasts. The Indian prime minister's plain speaking was as much a commentary on the inadequacies of SAARC's own contention on suppression of terrorism as it is on the association's current constraints and future prospects. India's external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, later said if we receive full cooperation from Pakistan and they locate the Memons and hand them over, it will be a big confidence-building measure. Mr. Dinesh Singh recalled that Mr. Nawaz Sharif had earlier promised full ?ooperation in tracking down the Memons. But, this never came about. Instead, statements which could create doubts about Pakistan's intentions emanated from Islamabad.

There were moments of suspense in Pakistan's camp as Mr. Rao's program for last day of the summit did not include a meeting with Mr. Nawaz Sharif. Services of mediators were pressed into action and feelers sent before the meeting between the two leaders could be arranged. Other leaders whom Mr. Rao met were the Bangladesh prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia; the Sri Lanka President, Mr. Premadasa; the Nepal prime minister, Mr. G.P. Koirala; the Maldives president, Mr. M.A. Gayoom; and the Bhutan King, Jigme Singye Wangchuk. Bilateral and SAARC issues were discussed in these meetings.

Anti-Dumping Duties Imposed on PVC Resin

BK0904155593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] The government has imposed anti-dumping duties on some petrochemical products being imported into the country. The designated authority has taken a decision following complaints received from the indigenous industry. An official release in New Delhi today said domestic industry had given written complaints alleging dumping of PVC resin materials by Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Republic of Korea and the United States. The anti-dumping duties will be in force till the first of June.

Removal of 'Irritants' in Trade With Nepal Hailed

BK1404043093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Commentary by Nitya Chakraborty of THE HINDUSTAN TIMES: " Indo-Nepal Trade Relations"]

[Text] The trade relations between India and Nepal have got a big boost following a new trade arrangement between the two countries. Under this arrangement, Nepal has allowed the import of specified goods from India, including natural rubber, cotton, polyester, rayon fiber, electric motors, and power generating sets on payments in freely convertible currency. The new arrangement came into force from yesterday. Other items under this facility are iron ingots, hot and rolled sheets, and machinery, excluding spare parts. Kathmandu has also allowed liberal foreign exchange to businessmen going abroad on trade promotion. New Delhi has already given several facilities to Nepal, including free movement of its commercial vehicles to Calcutta and Haldia ports to boost Nepalese exports to India and third countries.

For long, despite the high potential of trade between the two countries, procedural difficulties acted as a big constraint to high volume of Indo-Nepal trade. The issue came up for discussion at many forums, but concrete steps were taken during the last visit of the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. Now onward, the former clearance system for preferential exports of Nepalese manufactured items to India has been abolished. The new system has been devised on the internally accepted norms, which require the issuance of a certificate of origin by the local government. It will remove all the procedural delays and difficulties faced by the Nepalese. What is significant is that the relaxation in these provisions will ensure the duty-free and quota-free entry of the Nepalese goods.

Indo-Nepal trade relations had a number of irritants and the prime ministers—Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala—took substantive steps at their last meeting in Kathmandu in October to remove these difficulties. Three exchanges of letters have been signed between India and Nepal on the 16th of February this year, which had been in consonance with the motive of implementing bilateral agreement relating to trade and transit matters.

Three Hardcore Militants Killed in Punjab

BK1304145693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] In Punjab, five militants, including three hardcore, and a head constable were among the six persons killed in separate encounters since last evening. According to an official spokesman, the security forces gunned down a hard-core militants, Majit Singh alias Bhola, who was responsible for 700 killings, in an encounter at Korke Kalan village in Ludhiana District this afternoon.

Daily Reviews Missile Program Progress, Spinoffs

BK1104085093 Delhi PATRIOT in English 2 Apr 93 p 6

[By Our Special Representative]

[Text] The third launch of the Agni [Fire] intermediate range ballistic missile technology demonstrator will take place before the end of the year, and user trials of tbe Prithvi [Earth] surface-to-surface missile and Trishul [Trident] SAM will commence shortly.

Scientific Adviser to the Minister of Defence, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, told the Parliamentary Consultative Committee that limited series production of the Pilotless Target Aircraft (PTA) and the first roll-out of the full scale engineering development demonstrator of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), a full six months ahead of scbedule, are the important milestones the Defence Research and Development Organisation [DRDO] will cross.

Presided over by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao (who has retained the Defense portfolio after tbe transfer of Mr. Pawar to Bombay) tbe Committee discussed ways of controlling time and cost overruns of projects crucial to tbe self-reliant development of indigenously designed weapons systems.

Dr. Kalam informed the members about the strict monitoring and review mechanisms and the "consortium approach" that have been set in place to ensure speedy productionisation.

Further trials of the Nag [Cobra] anti-tank and Akash [Sky] SAM missiles will continue througb 1993 and the acceptance by the Army of the main battle tank Arjun has given a fillip to DRDO morale.

Technology breakthrougbs have been achieved in several areas that have come under restrictive international controls, as in computers, signal processing, metallurgy, and composite materials.

Spin-offs to the civilian sector include water desalination, calipers of composite materials for artificial limbs, and avalanche detection gear.

SJP Leader, Supporters Join Congress-I

BK1004163293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] The former Haryana minister and SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] leader, Mr. Balbir Singh Seni, has joined the Congress-I along with his supporters. An announcement to this effect was made by Mr. Seni at a public meeting held at Pehowa in Haryana today.

Earlier, addressing the meeting, the state chief minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal, announced that crop insurance will soon be introduced in the state.

Crude Oil Imports Rise; Statistics Cited

BK0904113293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1115 GMT 9 Apr 93

[Text] New Delhi, April 9 (AFP)—India's crude oil imports rose by 4.87 million tonnes in fiscal 1992-93 and it is likely to buy 28 million tonnes of crude this financial year, the state-owned Indian Oil Corp. (IOC) said Friday.

The IOC said crude imports in fiscal 1992-93, which ended March 31, totalled 29 million tonnes over the previous year's 24.13 million tonnes.

The volume of petroleum products brought in from abroad went up by about 1.24 million tonnes to 10 million tonnes in 1991-92.

Most of the imported crude came from Gulf suppliers but India also made purchases during the past fiscal year from Nigeria, China and Australia, the IOC said.

Domestic crude production accounts for about 60 percent of India's oil needs.

Commentary on Implications of New Credit Policy

BK1204114893 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Commentary by A.K. Bhattacharya]

[Text] The slack season credit policy announced by the Reserve Bank of India [RBI] in Bombay has rationalized the interest rate structure. The rationalization has reduced the existing four slabs of interest rates to three. This has been achieved by lowering lending rates from 13.5 percent to 12 percent for loans between 7,500 and 25,000 rupees and by raising the rates from 11.5 percent to 12 percent for loans up to 7,500 rupees. The RBI governor has given ample indication of concession in his credit policy that the inflationary pressure inherent within the economy has not yet been sufficiently tamed. The expectation is to reduce the money supply to 12 percent during the current financial year. No wonder he has also clamped an export credit resonance that shot up phenomenally during 1992-93 and will now be brought under check. The hope is that as and when the inflation rate is seen to be under control there may be some reprieve for the corporate sector in the form of an interest rate cut. Even for the present, the RBI governor's concern for the credit-starved industrial sector has found ample expression in his decision to reduce the statutory liquidity ratio and cash reserve ratio by one percentage point to 36.5 percent and 14 percent respectively. This would result in an increase in lendable resources of commercial banks for about 45 billion rupees.

There is a special credit package for the small scale sector which once again underlines the government and RBI's concern for meeting the due needs of the small scale industry which plays no mean role in Indian economy. For those who have begun doubting the commitment of the government and RBI to the need for protecting the priority sector lending, the RBI governor has a fitting reply. He has tightened screws on foreign banks failing to meet the priority sector lending target set at 15 percent of the total advances. The shortfall in the target would now be compulsorily deposited in Small Industrial Development Bank of India—SIDBI—at an interest rate of 10 percent only. The priority sector definition for foreign banks has also been revised for foreign banks by including advances to export sector within it. Thus the RBI governor has looked after the needs of both the export and small scale sectors.

What is of greater relevance is the fact that the redefined priority sector lending obligation for foreign banks represents an enhanced target of 32 percent compared to 15 percent in the earlier policy. This means that foreign banks will now be able to include export sector lending while calculating the priority sector obligation, but the overall target will be more than double. The net outcome will be that foreign banks will have to provide more funds to the export sector to meet the enhanced target.

A special highlight of the policy is the creation of a new deposit scheme for non-resident Indians which does not enjoy the exchange risk cover. The interesting element in the scheme is that banks would be allowed the flexibility of fixing any rate of interest. At the same time, they have to bear the exchange risk cover. The new credit policy allows the margin requirement for obtaining bank loans against shares and debentures to be lowered from 75 percent to 50 percent. This makes more resources available to investors in the stock market and was expected to shore up the sagging market. This also neutralizes the adverse impact the stock market may have to bear in view of no reduction in the lending rates. But this has ensured that there is no excessive stocking of money to the stock market for speculative purpose. The additional credit of 100 million rupees to be availabe during the first half of the year would then be used primarily for industrial activities. In short, the slack season credit policy appears to be a cautious step to consolidate the insipient gains of industrial recovery and converted into a strong revival.

News for Overseas Indians Broadcast From 14 Apr

BK1404075693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] All India Radio will broadcast a national news bulletin in English at 2100 [1530 GMT] in its external services from today. It will be beamed toward the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], the West Asian, the Southeast Asian, and the Gulf countries for the benefit of nonresident Indians [NRI's]. In his message on the occasion, the prime minister said this facility will undoubtedly provide immediate information to the NRI's about important events in cultural, social, and political spheres taking place in the country everyday. The external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, said this is an extremely significant initiative. It is necessary for us to be able to reach out to the nonresident Indians and give the up-to-date news about the happenings in the country. The minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. K.P. Singh Deo, in his message expressed the hope that this small beginning will bring our country closer to all the nonresident Indians living in distant lands.

Iran

Al-Qadhdhafi Said To Pass Missile Plans to Iran

AU1304111093 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 13 Apr 93 p 3

[By Alan George]

[Text] London—Iran continues to arm itself dramatically. Tehran bought 1,800 underwater mines in March which could be deployed by the three Iranian submarines in the Persian Gulf. Iran bought the submarines from Russia in 1992, and another four have been ordered. Unconfirmed reports indicate that the mines also come from Russia. Iran dominates the Strait of Hormuz with this fleet, between the Omani and Iranian coast, through which about one-quarter of the world's annual oil production is transported, well-informed government circles in London told DER STANDARD. Libya's Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, for his part, has passed on the plans for his Al-Fatah missiles—intermediate-range ground-to-ground missiles—to Iran. During the 1980's, Libya tried to develop the Al-Fatah missile with the help of the private West German company Otrag. However, the project did not go any further than the construction of prototypes. All test launches failed. It is likely that Iran is now trying to develop the al-Fatah missile in a joint venture with Libya. The Al-Fatah is only one element of the ambitious Iranian plan to expand its capacity in ballistic missiles. The sources cite nine major Iranian missile systems, from the MGM-52 Lance—delivered by the United States during the shah's regime—to the Chinese DF-25 with a range of 1,700 km. Of particular interest for Western capitals is the Iranian-North Korean Nodong-1 missile, which can carry a 1,000-kg warhead over 1,000 km. Soon the first missiles are to be delivered, and subsequently North Korea will help build production facilities in Iran. British Government circles also believe that Iran is trying to build its own cruise missiles and long-range missiles—with a range of at least 2,000 km. Iranian purchasing agents have reportedly been showing particular interest in German and Japanese companies with experience in launching missiles. Central elements for Iranian missile projects have come from West European and Japanese companies. Tehran has also recruited missile experts from the ex-Soviet Union, according to British Government officials.

Agreements on Nuclear Cooperation Ratified

LD1304165193 Tehran IRNA in English 1629 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—The Majles on Tuesday ratified bills of separate cooperation pacts linked with the People's Republic of China and the Federative Republic of Russia, on peaceful application of nuclear energy.

According to the agreements, Iran will cooperate with China in wide ranging fields such as basic and applicable research for peaceful utilization of nuclear energy,

designing, building and operating of nuclear power plants, research on reactors, extraction and exploration of Uranium ore, radiation safeguards and ecological protection.

The 12-point agreement was signed for Iran by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani during his visit to Beijing last September.

"The two sides should give guarantees not to put at the disposal of a third party without the written permission of the other party, the information exchanged or resulting from joint researches and developments," Article Four of the agreement read.

The 10-point Iran-Russia cooperation pact on peaceful utilization of nuclear energy was also inked for Iran by Rafsanjani during his visit to Moscow in July 1989.

"Nuclear materials and related equipment should neither be utilized for proliferation of nuclear weapons or any kind of explosive devices nor for any kind of military purposes", an article of the agreement said.

"Application of nuclear materials should be under the supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and undertake physical safeguards", according to another clause of the article.

A direct air link between Iran and was among the bills discussed and ratified in the open session of the Majles today.

Iran Said Not To Participate in Arms Race

LD1404111093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran will not take part in the arms race started by the West in the Middle East, announced Torkan, minister of defense and Armed Forces support, today. He said that with the easing of tension on an international level the sale of arms in many parts of the world has been greatly reduced. Under these circumstances, U.S. and European arms manufacturing companies are resorting to any ploy to find buyers.

Torkan said that to swallow the wealth of oil-producing Persian Gulf countries U.S. and European arms manufacturers have turned the region into a center for selling arms. He said using news and propaganda media and by creating imaginary fear among the countries in the region, the Americans and the Europeans are trying to start a rivalry for the purchase of military equipment. Iran will not, however, fall into that trap and will concern itself with the country's economic reconstruction.

Comparing Iran's 850 million dollar military budget with Saudi Arabia's 16.5 billion dollar budget, the defense minister said that Riyadh's arms budget this year was 20 times that of Tehran's. He pointed out, however, that because of good relations with neighbors, the Islamic Republic of Iran does not need large military budgets and does not consider the arms purchases of the Persian Gulf littoral states as a threat.

At present, Torkan said, more than 50 percent of the output capacity of Iran's military and electronic industries are devoted to non-military manufacture, and the Armed Forces are engaged in the implementation of dozens of big development projects all over the country for the sake of economic reconstruction. He said the implementation of large-scale gas supply projects for Hamedan and Sanandaj, the construction of the Tehran-Saveh motorway, and the first section of the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway and the large water supply network from the Pishin dam to the port of Chahbahar are examples of the Armed Forces' participation in the country's reconstruction.

Torkan added that the experience of the war showed that committed manpower is the main factor in the victories of the people of Iran. Therefore, the rebuilding of the manpower and looking into the welfare of the Armed Forces are among the government's programs.

UN Mission Denies Supporting al-Jihad Group

LD1204084193 Tehran IRNA in English 0727 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] New York, April 12, IRNA—Iran's permanent mission to the United Nations categorically denied the allegations that Iran financially supported Shaykh Omar 'Abd-al-Rahman in his campaign against the Mubarak regime.

A press communique released by the Iranian permanent mission here rejected a NEW YORK TIMES report Sunday based on an article appearing in the London-based Saudi financed daily 'AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT alleging that Iran financially supported the mufti of al-Jihad organization.

The communique said such reports "attributed to unidentified officials and suspicious sources were baseless, ungrounded and designed for sensational purposes."

The Egyptian mufti of the al-Jihad organization, who is currently living in exile in the U.S., is being retried by a state security court in Egypt along with 48 other defendants on charges of inciting violence during a protest march four years ago. The American and Egyptian authorities are trying their utmost to link the name of the blind shaykh with the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York on February 26.

Students Support Intervention in Karabakh

LD1304175393 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 13, IRNA—Hundreds of Tehran University students demonstrated in front of the Armenian embassy here demanding Iranian intervention to stop the Armenian aggression on Azerbaijani soil.

Speakers for the rally expressed anger and hatred over the mass killing of Azeri Muslims by Armenian Army.

Majles deputies from Iran's west, east and Central Azerbaijan Provinces, attended the protest rally and demanded withdrawal of Armenian forces to the internationally recognized borders between the two Caucasus republics.

Deputy from Ardebil, 'Ali Mohammad Qaribani called the Armenian invasion a premeditated plot to create another Israel in the region.

He said, "the plan to create another Israel at a sensitive point near our country's border is now underway.

"Iranian people will not allow any sinister efforts to create a Bosnia-like situation in the region", Qaribani said.

The deputy from Maku, Western Azerbaijan Province, Mohammad Abbaspour, said "one reason for the failure of Azeri forces in repelling the Armenian aggression in Karabakh was lack of popular support for the government."

Askar Husayn Oglu, an elderly citizen from Baku, Azerbaijan Republic, who was present at the protest rally said the people of the Azeri city of Fizuli are awaiting relief assistance from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The demonstrators also condemned Russia and France for their support to Armenia.

A resolution issued at the end of the rally called on Yerevan to withdraw its Army immediately from Azeri soil and to return to the international borders.

Deputies on Government Ties With Armenia

NC1404092093 Paris AFP in English 0831 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, April 14 (AFP)—Iranian deputies asked the government on Wednesday to reconsider relations with Armenia due to its "aggression" against Azerbaijan and to increase aid to the Muslim Azeris.

"Taking into account the blatant aggression of Armenia and the killing of dear Muslims, we ask the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to reconsider its relations with Armenia", said a petition signed by more than 160 of the 270 deputies and read on the floor of the parliament.

The deputies the government to increase its "material and spiritual aid to Azerbaijan." [sentence as received]

Iran has been officially neutral in the conflict, but the government has been under pressure from Islamic radicals and Iranian Azeris to take a tougher stance toward Armenian offensive.

About 10 million ethnic Azeris and 250,000 Armenians live in Iran, and the government has been particularly cautious towards the conflict.

President 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani warned however on Monday that Iran may be forced to take more "concrete measures" if the war continued near its border.

The deputies also called for Armenian forces to withdraw and asked for a "political settlement of the conflict" through international and regional bodies

Armenia is locked in a struggle with Azerbaijan over the region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenian forces earlier this month captured the northwestern Azerbaijani province of Kelbadzhar, between the predominantly Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia itself.

Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency reported Tuesday that the Azerbaijani city of Fizuli, just southeast of Nagorno-Karabakh, is on the brink of falling to Armenian forces.

Deputies Criticize Armenian 'Aggression'

LD1404103993 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Excerpt] More than 150 Majles deputies signed a letter which was read out at today's Majles open session condemning the Armenian forces' aggression against the Azerbaijan Republic, calling for their withdrawal from Azeri soil as soon as possible, and urging the solving of the conflict by international and regional organizations and forums. In the letter the deputies have also called on the Islamic Government of Iran to reconsider its relations with Armenia because of her overt act of aggression and to increase material and moral support for the Republic of Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

Military Leaders Discuss 18 Apr Army Day

LD1304182693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] On 29 Farvardin [18 April]—Army Day—the model units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces will display their defensive preparedness throughout the country in a glorious parade.

In a news conference today, on the threshold of 29 Farvardin—Army Day—Major General Shahbazi, head of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces; Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Safa'i, the representative of the Supreme Juris-Consult [Vali-e Faqih Khamene'i] in the Armed Forces; as well as the commanders of the Army's tripartite forces described the Army's performance and future plans.

According to a report by the central news unit, the head of the Joint Staff, having stressed the Armed Forces' remarkable scientific and technical progress in recent years, said: The Army's committed personnel, by virtue of the experience gained during the course of eight years of sacred defense, have achieved notable progress in terms of human resources and equipment repair.

Continuing the news conference, the head of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Army described as groundless the poisonous propaganda launched by a number of Western mass media regarding the extraordinary boost in Iran's military strength, and said: On the basis of their own published statistics, Iran has made the smallest military purchases in the region. He said: Simultaneous with Army Day on 29 Farvardin, the model units of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces throughout the country will participate in a glorious parade. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Army units in Tehran will also display their combat capability in a parade in Azadi square on that day.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Safa'i, the representative of the Supreme Juris-Consult in the Armed Forces, for his part, described the education and publicity initiatives aimed at upgrading the level of Islamic awareness in the Army. He also described the training of over 600,000 of the Army's personnel in recent years at bases and on the ground as among the other initiatives of that institution in the Army.

During the news conference, Brigadier General Sattari, commander of the Air Force said: The repair work on all war equipment destroyed during the imposed war has been completed, and the Force will focus its efforts from now on on planning and strengthening its defensive systems.

In the news conference, Rear Admiral Sham'khani, commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy, in turn, stressed the high morale and the growth of the Navy's physical strength. He said: As of 5 Ordibehetst [25 April], the personnel of the Naval Force of the Army and the Iran Revolutionary Guard Corps, will display their combat capability by participating in a joint exercise in Bushehr region called the Fourth Victory. He stressed: Our country's Naval Force possesses total readiness for cooperating in all training areas and joint exercises with the countries of the region.

The final speaker in the news conference was Brigadier General Najafi, commander of the Army's Ground Force, who having outlined the combat capability and defense preparedness of that forces' personnel, said: After the acceptance of the resolution, the personnel of the Army's Ground Force, in addition to reconstructing that force, have also participated in 25 development projects. He stressed: During the course of last year, the committed personnel of the force have diffused and collected over 800,000 various mines planted in the war zones. The number of diffused mines in the past years amounts to over 3 million various mines, and the mine-sweeping work in these zones continues.

Embassy Rejects Egyptian Destabilization Charges

LD1404074793 Tehran IRNA in English 0704 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Paris, April 14, IRNA—Iran's embassy here in a statement Tuesday categorically denied allegations levelled by Husni Mubarak of Egypt against Iran which appeared in the Paris-based daily LE FIGARO.

Referring to Mubarak's claim that Iran was after destabilizing the Middle East region, the statement rejected such accusations and condemned use of such hostile tone against Iran. "Mubarak, by making such statements, aims at attracting the U.S. and Israeli attention and seeking foreign aid," it added.

"It is highly regretful that Husni Mubarak, under the pretext of achieving what he has termed as a comprehensive solution for the Middle East issue, is ignoring the fate and the plight of 400 plus Palestinians deported by the Zionist regime."

It said that Iran's spiritual support for the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement with the aim to help the Palestinians materialize their aspirations, in no way means dictating Tehran's policy to that Islamic movement. The statement noted that Iran's policy towards the Persian Gulf crisis is an explicit example proving that Tehran is not after destabilizing the Middle and Near East regions.

The statement added that the Islamic Republic of Iran is always following up the policy of consolidating friendly and fraternal ties on the basis of mutual respect with the Persian Gulf littoral states and that Mubarak's allegations that enjoying huge oil and gas resources Iran aims at gaining access to these countries' oil resources, "seems very ridiculous."

It also termed as absolutely "basesless" the allegations by Mubarak that Iran has employed and trained hundreds of Egyptians to carry out subversive acts in Egypt and that Egyptian and Algerian citizens are being trained by Iranians in Sudanese camps.

Referring to his allegations that Iran is exploiting the adverse economic condition of Egypt to achieve its own goals, the statement said the Iranian Government and nation wish economic prosperity and improvement for the Egyptian Muslim and brotherly nation and that Mubarak's imagination is "absolutely wrong and illogical."

The statement also strongly denied Mubarak's claims that Iran was making efforts to gain access to nuclear weapons and said Iran as a signatory to the Non-proliferation Treaty has never been and will never be after nuclear arms. Reports filed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Iran's nuclear facilities proves this, said the statement, adding that Iran always welcomes IAEA inspection of the Iranian nuclear facilities.

Pakistan

Minister's Resignation Highlights Leadership Split

BK1304113593 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 13 Apr 93 p 1

[By Salahuddin Haider and Mohammad Yasin]

[Text] Islamabad, April 12—Prime Minister's adviser with the status of a Federal Minister Roedad Khan and Minister of State for Production Jam Mashooq Ali resigned from the Federal Cabinet on Monday. Jam Mashooq Ali announced his resignation at a press conference in Karachi. While pleading for in-house change, he opposed the dissolution of the assemblies. Prime Minister's adviser Roedad Khan did not even issue a statement after tendering his resignation to the Prime Minister. The sources close to the prime minister's adviser confirmed the reports of the resignation to THE MUSLIM.

With the two latest resignations, the number of the ministers who have resigned from the cabinet has gone to eight.

Roeded Khan who was a key man of the President in the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Cabinet, faxed his resignation to the prime minister this morning and sent its copy to the President. Like a true-bred Pucca Sahib, the bureaucrat-turned politician kept his distance from newsmen. He made himself scarce from newsmen who wanted to talk to him to know the reasons for cancel. According to sources, Roeded Khan was in Aiwan-e-Sadr until 3 p.m. At the Aiwan-e-Sadr, no one was willing to confirm the resignation though one concerned gentleman did say that he too had heard about it but he could not confirm it. From his residence, the newsmen drew cryptic reply that "Mr Roedad is not home."

Political observers viewed the resignation by the key man of the president in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of great political significance. One well-connected political observer said: "If Roedad quits, it means that the chance of rapprochement between President GIK [Ghulam Ishaq Khan] and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif are virtually nil." By pulling out from the prime minister's Cabinet, Roedad Khan has dropped a crystal-close signal that the Old Man on The Hill is completely disenchanted with the prime minister and the prime minister's obeisance has failed to achieve its object. Political observers are of the considered opinion that the relations between the president and the prime minister have hit the lowest water-mark and reached a point of no-return. Well-informed political sources do not rule out the possibility of more resignations by the federal ministers pouring in and hastening the process of the change in the top echelon of the government through one or the other mode.

At his press conference, Jam Mashooq Ali said the assemblies must remain intact while the prime minister must make room for someone else. That, he thought, was the proper solution to the lingering crisis, which was had for the nation and its economy. He suggested that political parties should get together to pick a new incumbent for the post, who can then form a national government. There was really no particular advantage in doing away with the elected House. Such an extreme measure could only be resorted to if absolutely unavoidable, said the elder son of former Sindh Chief Minister late Jam Sadiq Ali whose influence on Sindh politics, despite his handicap, had been enormous. He said Nawaz Sharif should resign or face isolation as many more ministers were ready to quit.

Yet another significant point the outgoing minister made in his introductory remarks at his Defence Society House was that Petroleum Minister Chaudhary Nisar Ali, and not Nawaz Sharif, was the de facto premier. He said Chaudhary Nisar acted as the real prime minister as he dictated terms to his Cabinet colleagues, interfered with their working and disallowed the Cabinet to function as a cohesive body.

Jam Mashooq said for the 15 months he had been in office, he requested the prime minister, on four different occasions, to relieve him of the post, as he found himself paralysed in conducting the affairs of his ministry. He often told the prime minister that duties and responsibilities between him and the Production Minister Islam Nabi, should be defined, or he should be entrusted with some other portfolio. The prime minister promised to attend to his complaints every time he made these to him, but never implemented the assurances. He said not once had any file relating to his ministry been sent to him. Officials were transferred or promoted without his knowledge. Jam Mashooq said he had nothing personal against the prime minister, as he received maximum respect from him. He even treated Nawaz Sharif as his elder brother. But then statecraft had to be differentiated from personal equations. He said Chaudhary Nisar was a battle for all the Cabinet members. He often threatened him and others of dire consequences, including sacking from government posts, should they support Ghulam Ishaq Khan's candidature for next term in office. He said he told Chaudhary Nisar that ministries had never been of any interest to him, for he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He had seen ministries, and high offices even as a young child.

Jam Mashooq who hails from Saughar, and was elected a National Assembly member in October 1990, said President Ghuslam Ishaq Khan was the most suitable candidate for the presidency, although he made it clear that the president himself never expressed his desire to continue in office. He said Nawaz Sharif, who never took his Cabinet colleagues into confidence on any important issue, sought their views only while seeking support for the president's second term and that too when he was faced with crisis. He said he had sent his resignation to the president, but his support to Ishaq Khan stemmed from old loyalty, and admiration for his dedication to the statecraft, and not because Nawaz Sharif was in trouble today. Asked whether removal of Chaudhary Nisar would help solve the problem, he replied in the negative. He said the crisis could only be solved if Nawaz Sharif stepped down and an in-house change was brought immediately afterwords. At the end, he also praised Pir Pagara, who he said "is my elder, and my benefactor. I have great respect for Pir Sahib of Pagara."

Rights Group Cited on Indian 'Terror' in Kashmir

BK1304143093 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] In occupied Kashmir, life remained paralyzed following general strike and widespread protests against the latest brutalities of occupation forces. Twenty more people have been martyred by Indian troops during the last 24 hours. The occupation troops set ablaze shops and houses at Lal Chowk, in the center of Srinagar. They stopped the fire brigade from reaching the site. More than 200 shops and houses were gutted in the fire. After their killing and torture spree in Lal Chowk, Indian occupation forces also burned about a dozen houses and shops in Dalna, Barmula. KMS [Kashmir Media Service] reports that the spate of killings in custody by Indian troops continues. A majority of those martyred are school and college students. Clashes between mojahedin and Indian occupation troops have also been reported near Kupwara. The clashes took place during house-to-house searches. Mojahedin inflicted heavy losses on Indian troops while they suffered three casualties. The delegation of the International Human Rights Federation, Paris, refused permission by India to visit occupied Kashmir, today had a round of the camps of refugees forced to take shelter in Azad Kashmir due to Indian atrocities. The representatives of the refugees apprised the delegation of human rights violations in occupied Kashmir. They narrated harrowing tales of torture and molestation of women by Indian troops. Speaking on the occasion, the members of the Paris-based Human Rights Federation said the world community is now in full knowledge of the reign of terror let loose by Indian troops in occupied Kashmir. The delegation, which consists of eminent lawyers, doctors, and professors, assured the refugees that on their return they will submit a report on facts regarding human rights violations in occupied Kashmir so as to launch a coordinated effort to stop killings of Kashmiris in the held valley.

Foreign Office Condemns Indian Crackdown

BK1404113093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan has strongly condemned the escalation of (?total) crackdown by Indian occupation forces, indulging in acts of arson, indiscriminate murders, arrests, detentions and torture of the Muslim persons in occupied Kashmir. In a statement, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that in the last two weeks, Indian military and paramilitary forces set new records of atrocities.

In occupied Kashmir itself, curfew has been clamped on Lal Chowk in Srinagar to prevent holding of a big rally for which freedom fighters had given a call yesterday. All routes to the Chowk have been blocked and Indian troops are patrolling in armored cars and jeeps mounted with machineguns. Elsewhere in Srinagar, a complete strike is being observed for the sixth day today to protest against the catch-and-kill policy of occupation forces.

Editorial Questions Indian Envoy's Activities

BK1304114793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 13 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Indian ambassador in APC moot"]

[Text] While the APC [All Party Conference] meeting was in progress at the residence of their leader, Jam Karam, the Indian ambassador walked in, ostensibly to exchange greetings with the host and other opposition figures who were having consulations on sensitive national issues. Though the drop-in looks quite casual, it may not have been as much of coincidence it has been made to appear. Islamabad watchers have noticed an appreciable increase in the activities of diplomats of certain countries ever since the latest political crisis in the country began. Most of these gentlemen are fond of fishing in troubled water; their skills and energies are hewn to manipulate such crises to their own advantage. It is no secret that both India and US are very keen to destabiliise this country for various reasons. Therefore the presence of Indian ambassador at this important meeting of our politicians is quite offensive. Technically though Mr Lamba may not be found guilty of 'indulging in practices incompatible with his status', but in actual fact his arrival at Jam Karam's residence is in dubious taste. For ambassador to roam freely in the politically sensitive city of Islamabad indicates either foolhardiness or his confidence in strength of pro-Indian lobby within Pakistan. Whatever the case may be, our Foreign Office is strongly advised to put some checks on the socialising tendencies of the honourable ambassador.

Having said that we have to consider the other side of the situation as well. The ambassador would not call on the residence of an Opposition leader unless he was invited or he was on such friendly and informal terms that he needed no formal note for entering his drawing room. We unreservedly condemn the Opposition leader Jam Karam for cultivting the ambassador of a country which has made no secret of its intentions towards us. Whatever explanation Jam Karam may offer for his conduct one fails to see how he can effectively refute the charge of moral numbness, lack of patriotism, and indifference to the sufferings of Kashmiris and Indian Muslims. He cannot take refuge behind the argument that state relations are different from personal ties, because the embassies have explicit instructions to cultivate public figures. These contacts help embassies to gather first-hand information about a country and also enable them to influence the events through these conduits. The nation is waiting eagerly for Jam Karam to give his side of the story.

We may here stress that vital national considerations apart, the policy of keeping distance from foreign embassies serves the self- interest of public figures themselves. If they are seen hob-nobbing with ambassadors of unfriendly countries, they will be perceived unpatriotic by general public, which may jeopardise their political

career. Time and energy spent in clearing their tarnished image could well be employed in more positive pursuits.

Sharif on Meeting With India's Rao

BK1404105893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif has said that Pakistan has provided a solid foundation for the South Asian, Central Asian, and Gulf countries to increase trade and investment in order to boost exports. He was addressing the inaugural session of the two-day roundtable conference on investment in Islamabad this morning. He said that significant and noteworthy cooperation already exists between Pakistan and the Gulf countries. He said that new avenues of trade have opened up with the independence of Central Asian republics.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that the average growth rate in Pakistan over the past 15 years has remained at 6 percent and Pakistan is considered among the Asian countries whose economies have registered fast growth during 1990-92. Moreover, international financial institutions have also acknowledged Pakistan's solid economic performance in increasing the growth rate, boosting exports, and developing the private sector. He said that we are committed to developing the market economy in the country. He expressed confidence that the private sector will fully utilize its capabilities in view of the new situation and atmosphere. My government has taken up unprecedented far-reaching steps to accelerate the pace of investment, the prime minister added.

Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that Pakistan is a new country in the region and that wide scope for promoting economic activities has been created as a result of the inclusion of Afghanistan and the Central Asian countries in the Economic Cooperation Organization. He said that his government is striving to ensure the establishment of peace in Afghanistan.

He said that he hopes that the resolution of pending issues with India will help to normalize relations with that country. He referred to his useful meeting with the Indian prime minister in Dhaka a few days ago and said that it was agreed during the talks that the tension between the two countries should be removed.

Radio Pakistan's representative says that the two-day investment conference assumes importance in that it has been organized on a nongovernmental basis and that 80 percent of the conference participants have come from foreign countries.

Later, talking to newsmen, the prime minister said that the uncertain political situation in the country should end as it is not in the interest of the nation. He said that the country's political instability has affected its economic stability. Therefore, the current political situation has also affected the country's stock markets. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif said that the country is on the path of progress and prosperity and the country's progress and political stability are interlinked. Pakistan needs maximum investment for its economic progress, without which it cannot be counted among the developed countries, the prime minister added.

Army Chief Postpones Trip Amid Political Turmoil

BK1404083693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0713 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Islamabad, April 14 (AFP)—Pakistani army chief General Abdul Waheed postponed Wednesday a visit to France, as the country's political crisis appeared to be entering a decisive stage. Waheed had planned to leave for Paris Wednesday on an official trip and go on from there to the United States.

Military sources said however the general's visit to the U.S. remained intact and that he would leave here for Sunday. The sources gave no reason for the abrupt postponement, but observers here linked it to the uncertain domestic political situation caused by a power struggle between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Sources at the presidency in Islamabad said Sharif was to meet with the president later Wednesday.

Six ministers and two advisers to Sharif with ministerial rank have resigned from federal cabinet in the past two weeks amid rumors that more may follow.

Sharif meanwhile told reporters Wednesday the political turmoil should end in the interests of the nation.

"It is my national duty and desire to put an end to the prevalent uncertainty," he said, adding his thinking was "subservient" to the national interest and that he would fulfil his responsibilities with a patriotic spirit. He did not however indicate what he intended to do to resolve the crisis.

Several opposition parties grouped in a backstage National Democratic Alliance (NDA) here late Tuesday demanded that the president dissolve the 217-member National Assembly and form a government of national unity.

"The president should perform his constitutional duties forthwith," a veteran politician and NDA spokesman Nawabzada Nasrullah said following a meeting of alliance leaders here. He said the Sharif government had lost "all justification" to remain in power, adding "we do not accept the present assembly and the government as legitimate."

But the main opposition Peoples Democratic Alliance (PDA) whose leader Benazir Bhutto has been in London for the past few months has yet to formally declare its stand, though it had made a similar demand in the past.

The president's power to dissolve assembly has been at the centre of the current feud between the president and prime minister.

A legacy from late President Mohammad Ziaul Haq who introduced it into the constitution to consolidate his hold on power before lifting martial law in 1985, Sharif sought to revoke it in February.

Cracks soon surfaced in the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML) and were aggravated when Sharif moved to take over the presidency of the party to fill a vacancy caused by the death of the office-holder Mohammad Khan Junejo on March 18.

Despite a turnabout by Sharif who dropped his plan to do away with the sweeping presidential powers, the schism between the prime minister and the president has not healed.

Newspapers, describing Wednesday's planned meeting between the two key players as crucial, said the crisis was now in a decisive phase. The reports speculated that the assembly could be dissolved in the coming days either by the president on his own or at the advice of the prime minister who is also entitled under the constitution to seek a dissolution.

Further on Army Chief

BK1404112693 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 14 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Amidst reports of some changes in the government triggered by the spate of resignations by federal ministers, the Chief of Army Staff [COAS], General Abdul Waheed has postponed his forthcoming visits to France and the United States for few days, sources here said.

The General who was to leave for Paris on April 14 for a four-day visit to France has revised his schedule. He would now instead leave for the United States on April 19.

Sources said that the Chief of Army Staff on Tuesday again held an unscheduled meeting with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan. He reportedly have discussed some important national affairs including prevailing confusion and uncertainty on the political scene. The General, earlier on Monday had met with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the talks centered on internal situation with special reference to the startling allegations levelled by the widow of late General Asif Nawaz. After COAS's meeting with the prime minister, the federal government announced the constitution of a judicial commission to probe into the death of late General Asif Nawaz.

Meanwhile, the capital was again rife with reports that the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif may advise the president to dissolve assemblies to clear the way for fresh elections.

There were also reports of a meeting between the president and the prime minister on Tuesday but it was delayed for a day as the premier flew to Lahore to hold final consultations with his father and other sides.

Another report said that the prime minister was also considering the possibility of seeking vote of confidence. He is likely to call on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, political circles in the federal capital are attaching great importance to the postponement of General Waheed's departure on foreign visit. Also significant was former Attorney General Sharifuddin Pirzada's presence at the meeting of opposition leaders at Maulana Kansar Niazi's residence. These circles are of the view that 'the change has become inevitable'.

Ministers Meet President; View Political Situation

BK1304162493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Three federal ministers—Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak, Lieutenant General (Retired) Majid Malik, and Elahi Bux Sumroo—called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. According to the official sources, they discussed with him the prevailing political situation in the country.

Political Parties Support Nawaz Sharif

BK1404031293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Parliament members belonging to the Awami National Party; the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, Fazlur Rahman Group; the Pakistan National Party; and the Jamaat-i-Islami met Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad yesterday. According to APP, they exchanged views on the existing political situation and extended their full support to the prime minister. The Awami National Party delegation, led by Member of the National Assembly [MNA] Ajmal Khan Kattak and accompanied by Ministers Ghulam Mohammad Billour and Mohammad Azam Khan Hoti, told the prime minister that any action designed to create unstability is against country's interests and the political system. The legislators belonging to Jamiat-i-Ulema- i-Islam, led by MNA Maulana Shirani, said that their party favors national consensus. MNA Mir Hashim Bizenjo and Pakistan National Party's Bijen Bizenjo said they support maintaining the sanctity of the parliament. Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Senator Professor Khurshid Ahmed and MNA Liaqat Baloch discussed the political situation with the prime minister. Jamaat-i-Islami Amir Qazi Hussain Ahmad has described the political disputes as harmful to the country's interests. He was addressing the local bar association members in Hyderabad.